

Northern crossing to open in a week

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan and Israel plan to open the northern crossing point, the Sheikh Hussein Bridge, within a week. A source said the 40-metre span bridge is designed to link the northern parts of Jordan and Israel, which sign a peace treaty. Wednesday, AFP reported. The steel bridge spanning the two banks of the Jordan River near its confluence with the Yarmouk River is built on two-level beams and seated on two concrete pillars, one on each side. Officials have said that the Sheikh Hussein Bridge and the Araba crossing point in the south would serve as the two main exit and entry points for Israeli and Jordanian travellers. The border would open officially on Nov. 1, six days after Israel and Jordan sign the peace treaty, according to the source quoted by AFP. On Aug. 8, Israel and Jordan inaugurated the Araba border post near Aqaba but it has so far been restricted to third country nationals.

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King warns against efforts by minority to undermine peace

Opposition voice acceptable under democracy but falsifying views is unacceptable

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein on Monday issued an implicit but tough warning against a "minority" group within society that is trying to undermine national unity, stressing that political activities in the Kingdom should comply with the Constitution, the law and the National Charter.

In an address to senior army officers, the King warned against the propagation of false views against the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty which will be signed Wednesday, saying that the overwhelming majority of the people support the treaty.

"A minority among the people has attacked it (the treaty), and part of our democratic life and our respect for the people's rights is to allow them to express their views. But I would like to remind (them) of the National Charter, the Constitution and the need for the minority to respect the views of the majority, and here I do not generalise, but specify (a certain group)," King Hussein told officers of the 12th Royal Mechanised Division.

King Hussein said the majority support that the peace treaty has been based on the confidence the people have in themselves and in the

King, "who is a brother who lived with you and for you."

He said it was difficult for people to move from one stage to another, but expressed hope that God will help the people of Jordan pass through this shift successfully.

He said at the beginning of the stage he was following reports about discussions and studies which were taking place. He said the belief of some groups was that Jordan would not regain any of its rights and demands. The King said that he estimated that within a period of four years, they would have been able to turn the situation in the opposite direction.

"I think they were surprised by the achievement and the result and by what we regained. Thus we hear what we hear and see what we see," he said.

King Hussein also criticised the Palestine Liberation Organisation, saying it was responsible for the civil strife in 1970.

Apparently angered by recent criticism from PLO chief Yasser Arafat over the issue of Jerusalem, King Hussein said he would not give up the Hashemites' religious role in Islamic shrines in the Holy city.

But he said that after the Palestinians achieve political and territorial sovereignty in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, "then we can discuss their (Palestinians') rights in Jerusalem."

King Hussein said: "Jerusalem is our hearts and souls and we will not give it up for anything."

"It is a trust and when the (Palestinian) people regain their rights on their national soil, then we can discuss the matter," said the King, a direct descendant of the Prophet Mohammad. "But as for now, we are not going to give up this trust for the unknown."

"Jerusalem will be, God willing, the symbol of peace," the monarch said in the 45-minute, televised address.

King Hussein blamed the PLO for the conflict in 1970. "In 1970, our problem was not with the Palestinian people," King Hussein said.

He said the problem was with the side that was "responsible for the destruction of Lebanon and for the situation in Palestine now."

On peace with Israel, King Hussein rejected criticism from Syria, Lebanon and the PLO.

"If we were looking for our



His Majesty King Hussein on Monday addresses senior officers from the 12th Royal Mechanised

Division, in a meeting attended by His Royal Highness Prince Ali Al Hussein (centre) (Armed Forces photo)

Clinton to address Parliament

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — U.S. President Bill Clinton will address a joint session of the two Houses of Parliament Wednesday evening after attending the signing ceremony of the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty in Wadi Araba, according to Jordanian and American statements.

An official statement carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali has asked Parliament to convene for the address in accordance with Article 89 of the Constitution. Clinton will deliver the speech at 8 p.m.

The U.S. president, First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton and a large American delegation will attend the signing of the treaty by Mr. Majali and his Israeli counterpart Yitzhak Rabin at 1 p.m. Wednesday. They will be joined by tens of foreign and Arab dignitaries, including Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa, German Foreign Minister Klaus Kink

el and Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev.

Mr. Clinton is expected to arrive in Aqaba from Egypt Wednesday morning and meet with His Majesty King Hussein before attending the signing ceremony. He will visit Petra before flying to Amman where he will address Parliament before attending a state banquet that will be held in his honour.

Before it was confirmed that Mr. Clinton will address Parliament, the 16-member Islamic Action Front (IAF) parliamentary bloc said it will boycott the U.S. president's speech in protest against the peace treaty and what it called the hostile American policies towards the Arabs and Islamic movements.

The bloc's spokesman, Deputy Hamzeh Mansour, said the boycott was meant as a message to Mr. Clinton, whom he described as the enemy of the Arab and Muslim nations, that he was not welcome to Jordan.

The IAF has decided to boycott the session against another option it has consi-

dered, which was to attend the session and try to make the U.S. president "know how we feel about him."

Hawkish IAF member Hamman Sa'id said the bloc opted for the boycott because it was not clear what means the Islamist deputies would use to convey their feelings to the U.S. President had the decision been to attend the session.

The IAF deputies also announced Monday that they would boycott the signing ceremony on Wednesday to express their rejection of the treaty, "which gave the Jews every thing and recognised their right to exist in Palestine."

The IAF and seven other opposition parties also said in a statement that they have rejected the invitations extended to them to attend the signing ceremony.

The eight leftist, and pan-Arabist parties said in the statement, which identified Mr. Mansour as their spokesman, that they reject the treaty because it deviates

from the principles of the nation and "constitutes a threat to the higher interests of the Jordanian people and the Arab Nation and consolidates the Zionist and American interests in the region."

Speaking on behalf of the preparatory committee for the "popular Jordanian conference" for standing up against surrender and normalisation, Mr. Mansour also said in a statement that the committee was redrafting a document rejecting the peace treaty to be presented to the conference.

The statement did not specify when the conference was to take place.

The Islamists have vowed to fight the treaty with all the power they have but stressed they would do so within the confines of the law and democratic practices.

They said they would lobby deputies to abort the treaty when it was presented to Parliament for ratification, but all indications are their efforts will not bear fruit as the majority of lawmakers support the peace process.

Wednesday holiday

AMMAN (Petra) — Wednesday, Oct. 26, has been declared a public holiday in Jordan in observance of the signing of the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty. A statement by Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali said that all government offices and public institutions will be closed on the day to mark the occasion.

Clinton, Kozyrev to meet Wednesday

MOSCOW (AFP) — Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev will meet with President Bill Clinton during the signing of the Jordanian-Israeli peace agreement, Interfax news agency said Monday. Mr. Kozyrev will confer with Mr. Clinton while attending the historic signing Wednesday, said Viktor Posvalyuk, director of the foreign ministry's Middle East and North Africa Department.

Raul Julia dies

NEW YORK (AP) — Raul Julia, the versatile, darkly handsome star of theatre and film who could play everything from Shakespeare to modern drama to the cartoonish Gomez of "The Addams Family," died Monday. He was 54. Julia died shortly before noon from complications of a stroke. He had suffered the stroke a week ago and lapsed into a coma Thursday. "I love to act because I love to communicate with an audience," Julia said in a 1985 interview. "It is hard to explain what that experience feels like — making people laugh or cry, become moved or inspired — but it is unique. You become one with them."

Aristide names premier

PORT-AU-PRINCE (R) — Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide nominated Smarak Michel, a wealthy Haitian businessman, to be his prime minister on Monday, an aide to Mr. Michel said. "President Aristide has written two letters, one to the president of the senate, the other to the president of the chamber of deputies, to announce his choice of Smarak Michel as the new prime minister," the aide said.

Clinton dampens hopes for Syria-Israel breakthrough

CLEVELAND (Agencies) — President Bill Clinton said Monday not to expect a major breakthrough during his Middle East visit this week adding that extremism was still a problem between Damascus and Washington.

"I'm going to Syria because achieving a full peace in the Middle East requires a peace between Israel and Syria, which will make possible a peace between Israel and Lebanon," Mr. Clinton said in a radio interview.

He will be the first U.S. president since Richard Nixon in 1974 to visit Damascus, capital of a country which remains on the U.S. blacklist of countries supporting "terrorism."

"Terrorism is still an issue with Syria, and it will continue to be," Mr. Clinton said. "But it seems clear to me that the best way to end terrorism in the Middle East is to have a comprehensive

peace settlement there. And I do believe we're making progress."

"The primary purpose of going to the Middle East is to stand shoulder to shoulder with Israel and Jordan, particularly given the difficult events (...) and the violence they've undergone," he added.

"I don't expect a dramatic breakthrough. I want to caution the American people about that going in," Mr. Clinton said in an interview with Cleveland radio station WUVE during a visit to Ohio.

The president leaves on Tuesday on a four-day trip that will also take him to Egypt, Jordan, Israel, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

Mr. Clinton will witness the signing of a peace treaty between Israel and Jordan on Wednesday, and on Thursday will briefly visit Damascus for talks with Syrian Pres-

ident Hafez Al Assad.

"I do believe we're making progress, and I think if I go to Syria we will make further progress. Since I'm in the region, I think that I ought to keep working and not just celebrate what we've done already," Mr. Clinton said.

Israeli Environment Minister Yossi Sarid, the first Israeli leader to set foot in Bahrain, said Monday he expects peace with Syria will come next year, opening the way for full-fledged relations with the Arab World.

"Peace with Syria will be established in 1995," he told the Associated Press in Bahrain.

"We're approaching the comprehensive peace," said Mr. Sarid, who is in Bahrain heading an Israeli delegation to multilateral talks on the environment that start Tuesday.

Baghdad accuses U.S., U.K. of trying to annihilate Iraqis

NICOSIA (Agencies) — An Iraqi minister Monday accused the United States and Britain of trying to annihilate the entire Iraqi people by maintaining U.N. sanctions.

"The political aim pursued by the U.S. and Britain has become quite clear and has turned into the genocide of the Iraqi people," the government daily Al Jumhuriyah quoted Trade Minister Mohammad Mehdi Saleh as telling a human rights symposium on Iraq under U.N. sanctions.

They were imposed after Iraq invaded Kuwait in August 1990.

Mr. Saleh said that "by depriving the Iraqi people of food and medicine, the U.S. and Britain want to create a state of starvation which will result in the collapse of the country's social structure."

He said the Baghdad government last month cut monthly food rations because "the U.S. and British representatives at the U.N. Secur-

ity Council blocked a contract to purchase rice from Thailand."

The Iraqis have been waging a diplomatic campaign to win support for easing, or lifting, the crippling sanctions which Baghdad says has caused the death of one million people.

However, its efforts were seriously undercut earlier this month when it deployed some 70,000 troops north of the Kuwaiti border, prompting a swift military buildup in the region by the United States and its allies.

Food and medicine are exempt from the sanctions, but Baghdad says it has no cash to pay for them because its oil sales are blocked by the embargo.

Iraq has rejected a U.N. offer to allow it to sell oil worth \$1.6 billion to buy food and medicine to be distributed under U.N. supervision.

It says the U.N. conditions, which include diverting

one-third of the proceeds to pay war reparations to Kuwait, infringe on Iraq's sovereignty.

"How could we accept the presence of a foreign party to supervise the distribution of food which we buy from our own money," Mr. Saleh said.

Mr. Saleh denied that Iraq held secret accounts in foreign banks or cash inside Iraq to pay for food and medicine and said U.S. intelligence keeps a close watch on Iraq's purchases.

"The American intelligence is tracking down every importation contract and every food shipment and ... accuses Iraq of holding secret bank accounts abroad," Mr. Saleh said.

Meanwhile President Saddam Hussein's eldest son, Uday, criticised Iraq's foreign policymakers saying they had gained nothing from the United Nations in return for scrapping Iraq's weapons of

Hamas seeks PNA protection

GAZA CITY (Agencies) — The Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas, asked the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) on Monday to protect Hamas leaders after reports that Israel intended to murder them in revenge for the bus bombing.

"I ask the Palestinian authority to provide protection for the Islamic leaders and for all the Palestinian people," Hamas spokesman Mahmoud Zahar said in a statement.

The London Observer newspaper reported Sunday that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin had ordered agents to "hunt down and eliminate" Hamas leaders following last Wednesday's atrocity in Tel Aviv.

A Hamas bomber killed 22 people as well as himself, and the fundamentalists have threatened more killings in the fight against Israel.

"Rabin's order according to the Observer to eliminate Hamas people will only serve violence," Mr. Zahar said.

Several prominent Hamas people have decided not to sleep at home, one Hamas official said.

The PNA arrested 350 militants after Hamas took an Israeli soldier hostage on Oct. 9, the same day assailants shot dead two people on a Jerusalem street.

"Only about 20 of our people remain in Palestinian jails today," another Hamas leader, Ahmad Bahr, told AFP.

"They were released in small batches over recent days."

Palestinian police last week said 80 remained in prison and have not announced further releases.

Mr. Rabin has ordered security forces to shoot and

kill Hamas' military commanders, the Associated Press said.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher called on Monday for an international ban on public and private financing for Hamas, Hizbollah and other similar groups.

"Condemnation is not enough," he said in a speech that also condemned Iran as "the world's most significant state sponsor of terrorism."

Mr. Christopher spoke at Georgetown University a day before he and President Clinton travel to the Middle East. He said the administration may propose legislation to prevent Hamas and similar groups from raising money in the United States.

"We must join together to turn off all foreign sources of funding for terrorism, both public and private," Mr. Christopher said. "Front organisations based abroad that are linked to terrorism must be shut down, and the perpetrators and organisers of terrorism must be punished."

Since last Wednesday's bombing in Tel Aviv, Israeli troops have arrested dozens of Hamas members in the occupied West Bank and Arab East Jerusalem.

Mr. Rabin on Monday told legislators that among those arrested were two alleged accomplices of the suicide bomber, Salah Abdul Rahim Hassan Assawi from the West Bank town of Qalqilya. One of the accomplices let Assawi sleep in his home in the Tel Aviv area on the night before the attack, a police source said.

Palestinian sources said

Israel, PLO try to plug self-rule gaps

CAIRO (Agencies) — Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) tried Monday to bridge differences over the self-rule body to be elected by Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The Palestinians answered Israeli questions about proposals presented last week about how the autonomy council would be set up and work, PLO delegation chief Saeb Erakat said.

Israelis wanted clarification about "certain regulatory and legislative measures," Dr. Erakat said. But he did not say what the PLO's answers were.

"We had also proposed international control over the election process which would be carried out by the United Nations," Dr. Erakat added.

Palestinian negotiators want the council to be a 100-member parliament but Israel will accept no more than 30 members in what it says should amount to an administrative body.

The PLO wants East Jerusalem residents to both vote and stand as candidates in the poll which was to have been held in July under the declaration of principles signed by the two sides more than a year ago.

Israel will only allow them to vote.

Dr. Erakat gave the Palestinian answers to his Israeli counterpart, General Danny Rothschild early Monday.

The meeting was then suspended "so the Israeli side could go over the document," he said, adding that Gen. Rothschild and the Israelis will "certainly consult with their administration."

Dr. Erakat criticised the results of Sunday's liaison

committee meeting, which steers the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations.

"We unfortunately failed to make progress on issues which we came to settle," he said, referring to Israel's refusal to end the closure of the West Bank and Gaza Strip imposed after the Tel Aviv bus bombing.

Israel sealed off the territories last Thursday following a series of attacks claimed by the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas.

Some 70,000 Palestinians were thrown out of their jobs because of the closure, and the impoverished Gaza Strip stands to lose millions of dollars in wages.

The Palestinians also demanded the release of some 5,000 prisoners, and that issue "was transferred to the committee of confidence-building measures which never met," Dr. Erakat lamented.

But there had been "some accomplishments like the agreements on international passages, the temporary international presence (TIP) and the committee on the displaced," he said.

The passages agreement, which gives access to the Gaza Strip and the West Bank through Egypt and Jordan respectively to facilitate the transit of people and cargo, will be implemented on Oct. 31.

The committee also decided to invite Egypt and Jordan to participate in the committee called for by the declaration of principles to discuss the fate of Palestinians displaced during the 1967 Arab-Israeli war.

The liaison committee also

Gazans grapple with the legacies of occupation

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

GAZA — More than a year after the Palestinian-Israeli Oslo accords were signed and a hundred days after Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat returned to the beaches of the Gaza Strip, Palestinians continue their daily battle for survival.

Very few Gazans would argue that life here has improved substantially beyond the relative freedom of movement and an end to daily killings and shootings by Israeli occupation forces. Rampant unemployment, environmental hazards and the effects of years of psychological trauma remain very much a part of their lives.

Men, women and children are now free of the 6 p.m. curfew which confined them to their often ghetto-like houses for days and sometimes weeks. They are free to walk in the streets and play on the beaches, a freedom that most people elsewhere in the world take for granted.

But after decades of occupation and more than six years of the intifada, life in Gaza is far from normal: nothing can be taken for granted.

With most of the Israeli soldiers gone from the big population centres like Gaza City, Khan Younes and Deir Al Balah, shootings and killings have basically ceased, although armed Jewish settlers as well as Israeli soldiers remain in pockets of the Gaza Strip posing a potential for renewed violence.

where Gaza have been transformed into a new form and entity that most people here still find very alien," said Ziad Khaldi, 34, a social worker in Gaza City. "They still have trouble relating to the new authorities because they have never been exposed to 'friendly' authorities. It is a new concept for most."

The newly installed Palestinian National Authority (PNA) has been entrusted with rebuilding a society that has been "assaulted continuously," as child psychologist Fadia Abu Hein put it. "This society needs to heal and develop on parallel tracks because one without the other is useless in this case."

Having worked with traumatised children as well as families, Dr. Abu Hein concluded that Palestinians in Gaza need to be given the "mechanisms" to heal. "Studies sponsored by U.N. agencies indicate that 80 per cent of the children in Gaza have been exposed to one or more severe forms of stress that has manifested itself in signs of psychosomatic disturbances."

Theatre, art therapy and creative learning techniques as well as counselling have been proposed and are partly being introduced in order to further the concept of healing.

The psychological wounds are but a few of many in the Palestinian society of the Gaza Strip and West Bank. Decades of neglect has created a decline in health services, know-how and the population's general state of health.



Israeli border guards check Palestinian youngsters in East Jerusalem on Monday (AFP photo)

Of the approximately 37,000 children born in Gaza every year many suffer from acute respiratory infections, diarrhoeal diseases, malnutrition and anemia.

While new-borns as well as some 16,000 pregnant women receive immunisations many other health issues remain to be addressed. "The most important thing is continuity. We must be able to provide for the programmes, be they immunisations or others, regularly and not allow them to be occasional," said Dr. Naeef Ayed, a U.N. health official.

As a result of decades of fragmented health services hindered by financial and military constraints, serious environment-related illnesses and infections have manifested themselves in the Gaza Strip. Both health and nutritional status have deteriorated as a result of declining economic conditions.

There have been some success stories due largely to the uninterrupted efforts of U.N. agencies as well as a local and international non-governmental organisations (NGOs). Infant mortality rate is down to 41 per thousand live births.

However, respiratory infections such as pneumonia still kill a thousand children per year in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

Mothers who never had the opportunity to educate themselves in basic health matters due to years of forced confinement to the

home are now being targeted for mobilisation in the private sector. The literacy rate among females has declined, due to the Israeli closure of schools and the declining economic conditions. They must now be trained and educated in "skills for living and for the living," says Dr. Abu Hein.

"Many of these women have buried children, parents, husbands brothers or sisters. They know how to mourn. Now they must learn to develop their survival skills and become assets in the drive towards development," added Dr. Abu Hein, who hopes women will play a substantial role in the "healing and rehabilitation" of Palestinian society in the era of peace.

But education is as much a challenge as nation-building, says under-secretary of the PNA Ministry of Education Khalil Mahshi.

"The challenges before us are mind boggling," said Mr. Mahshi.

"Most students have still not received their textbooks to date. School started more than a month ago."

Education is one of several primary concerns and challenges for the PNA, for literacy rates and quality of education have plummeted in the last five years.

Long curfews and closure of schools by the Israeli authorities created backlogs for most of the schools. The existing curriculum is outdated, say educationists. "All the kids do is memorise," says high school teacher Hala Erakat. "They don't learn a thing and they certainly don't learn any life-related skills in the classroom either."

Most of the more than 500,000 children enrolled in Gaza and West Bank schools are part of a double shift system where they crowd into classrooms 40 to 45 at a time.

"Nation building is a big responsibility in any situation. With more than half the Palestinian territories still under occupation and the government still in interim transition, daily life is still in a state of survival tactics — living day to day and planning and development are mere mirages that we struggle to see on the horizon," said Mr. Mahshi.

Sudan government firmly entrenched, diplomats say

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudan's military government faces growing international isolation, a protracted civil war with southern rebels and an economy that has hit rock-bottom.

But diplomats say that more than five years after the government headed by Omar Hassan Al Bashir came to power in an Islamist-backed coup, it has consolidated its power and rendered political opposition toothless.

"The war in the south and the economy are constantly undermining the regime, but they are entrenched and the opposition is too weak to mount a challenge," said one Western diplomat.

The government, guided by Islamic leader Hassan Al Tourabi, installed followers of Dr. Tourabi's National Islamic Front in key military and political posts, diplomats said.

Opponents, like former Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi who was toppled by General Bashir in June 1989, rail against the leadership but are unable to mobilise support. Dr. Mahdi has been in and out of jail five times in the past 18 months.

Others, siding in exile in neighbouring Egypt, hope that spiralling costs of living, which have made life a misery for millions of Sudanese, will prompt a popular uprising.

The minimum wage for government employees is just 5,500 Sudanese pounds (about \$14) a month.

Eltigani, a Khartoum bus driver, said he spends 6,000 of his 7,000 pounds a month salary on food. Even a middle-ranking civil servant,

earning 19,000 pounds (\$47) a month said he could barely feed his three children on his wages.

"Everything has got worse in five years," said Eltigani, echoing views heard frequently in private but rarely in public.

The war in the south, where U.N. officials say government forces are preparing for an annual dry season offensive against rebels, is estimated to cost between \$1 million and \$2 million a day.

Diplomats say the war is unwinnable for either side. "We want to plant a new civilisation in the south... it is our challenge," Dr. Tourabi said this week of the war, which was sparked in 1983 by plans to implement Sharia (Islamic law) in the predominantly Christian and animist south.

U.N. officials say this year government forces may have to fight on two fronts after reports that a southern splinter group led by Riek Machar had turned its guns back on government troops after three years of fighting the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), the main rebel army in the south.

Under Gen. Bashir, Sudan's international relations have also been hit by Western charges that it is training Muslim militants.

The U.S. ambassador in Khartoum said this week he presented Sudan with testimony of a non-Sudanese national who was trained at a Sudanese military camp. Sudan has dismissed the reports.

Relations with many of Sudan's nine neighbours are poor, especially over a border

disagreement with Egypt and charges that southern neighbour Uganda is backing Sudanese rebels.

"The overall picture, both at home and abroad, is pretty bleak in the long term," another Western diplomat said. "But over the next year or two it's hard to see where the challenge will come from."

U.S. stand rejected

The Sudanese Foreign Ministry called in U.S. Ambassador Donald Petterson on Monday to express official discontent with a U.S. State Department statement on a shantytown crackdown, state-controlled Radio Omdurman said.

Last Friday the government rejected a U.S. claim that police had violently repressed a demonstration by squatters in Khartoum's twin town Omdurman, leaving several dead and wounded.

The ambassador was handed a protest saying the U.S. statement contained an "inaccurate description of the incident" in Al Khaidir suburb in Omdurman, the radio said. The Foreign Ministry explained the circumstances of the incident, the radio said, giving no details.

In its earlier statement, the foreign ministry said that what had happened in the Oct. 15 incident was the normal demolition of houses that had been illegally built on a site initially allocated for a hospital.

Those whose homes were removed had been rehoused in other areas with better services, said the statement, reported by the official SUNA news agency.

Israel on high alert for Clinton

By John West
Reuters

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — U.S. President Bill Clinton will be lucky if he sees more of the Holy Land and its people than beefy bodyguards and phalanxes of policemen when he visits Israel as part of a Middle East tour later this week.

Mr. Clinton hopes to revive flagging popularity at home appearing centre stage at one of the triumphs of the Middle East peace process. The signing of a full treaty between Israel and Jordan in Wadi Araba between the two countries.

But despite that process, the Middle East is still one of the world's most volatile regions and Israel, plagued by a wave of Muslim militant violence and intelligence reports of more to come, is mounting an enormous security operation.

"Every policeman in Israel, more or less, will be on duty when Clinton is here," said a police spokesman. Leave for the country's 21,000 police officers was

cancelled last week.

The army has also been drafted to secure the Wadi Araba area, where thousands of journalists, officials and dignitaries will attend Wednesday's signing. It is on a heightened state of alert in the West Bank.

Israel's security chiefs were due to meet on Monday in an atmosphere of secrecy about the precise details of the visit.

Despite the close ties that bind Israel to the United States, Mr. Clinton's visit will be the first presidential visit to the Jewish state since Jimmy Carter came in 1979 to celebrate Israel's first peace with an Arab country, Egypt.

Experts say fear of the assassin's bomb or bullet have played a part in determining his timetable as well as politics.

Mr. Clinton will meet Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat in the Egyptian capital Cairo. What is now Mr. Arafat's home base under self-rule, Gaza City, is almost impossible to secure against attack by rocket or mortar from nearby teeming refugee camps or slums.

The U.S. president, who brings with him at least 100 of his own security staff, will also visit tourist sites late at night, when streets are empty and easier to control.

As a practising Christian, he might want to visit the Church of the Holy Sepulchre where Christ is traditionally thought to have been crucified and buried. This is a security nightmare, lying in a maze of narrow streets and alleyways in Jerusalem's Old City where cars can pass only with great difficulty.

Israeli media and security circles are awash with rumours of new guerrilla attacks after Hamas struck three times in two weeks. Last week, a Hamas bomber blew apart a bus in Tel Aviv, killing himself and 22 others.

But many Israeli security officers believe Clinton's meeting with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad in Damascus, the first trip by an American president there since Richard Nixon in 1974, will ensure relative calm from guerrilla groups that Syria controls.

Guests should bring hats, tread carefully

EILAT (AP) — Guests at Wednesday's peace signing by Jordan and Israel are advised to bring hats and stay on the asphalt.

Hats, because the temperature may hit the mid-90s (mid-30s C); the asphalt, because the Israeli organisers say the signing site straddles a mine-strewn border.

The treaty, Israel's second with an Arab state, will be signed at 1 p.m. (1100 GMT) Wednesday, at a nondescript

border point in the Araba desert, four kilometres north of the Red Sea.

The main VIPs, including President Clinton, will mingle in a carpeted bedouin tent in a carpeted bedouin tent of black goat hair. There will be cold drinks, but no air conditioning.

Then under the desert sun, the treaty will be signed, watched from grandstands by 2,500 Israelis, 1,500 Americans and 1,500 Jordanians

all invited guests.

Barbra Streisand, who was rumoured to be coming, will not be there, said Avi Benayahu, an Israeli spokesman. But the Russian and Egyptian foreign ministers will attend, he said.

A minute's silence will be observed for the thousands who have died during the 46 years that Israel and Jordan were at war. Then, 10,000 balloons will be released.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Arab League to attend Casablanca summit

CAIRO (AFP) — The Arab League will participate in a three-day Middle East economic summit opening in the Moroccan city of Casablanca on Oct. 30, Egypt's Middle East News Agency (MENA) reported Sunday. Arab League Secretary General Esmer Abdel Meguid will head the League's delegation to the summit, and will also lead talks on Arab issues with Moroccan officials and other delegations, MENA said. The 22-member league boycotted an economic summit on Israel in the early 1950s. But recently the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) lifted the indirect boycott of companies doing business with Israel. Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said in Tel Aviv Sunday the conference would represent "an approach towards a new Middle East economy." It would be an economic summit to bring together Palestinians, Israelis, Arab states, Americans, Asians and Europeans, Mr. Peres said.

Vilnai appointed Israel army deputy chief

TEL AVIV (AFP) — General Matan Vilnai, Israel's southern region commander, has been appointed army deputy chief of staff and will take up his duties on Oct. 1, officials said. The decision was taken by Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, who is also defence minister, after consultations with the outgoing Chief of Staff Elad Barak and his replacement, Gen. Amnon Shabak. Gen. Vilnai, born in Jerusalem in 1944, is a veteran of the 1967 and 1973 Arab-Israeli wars and the Lebanon campaign. His main task as chief of southern command was the suppression of the Palestinian intifada in the occupied territories.

Tanzania to reestablish ties with Israel

TEL AVIV (AP) — The United Republic of Tanzania has announced that it will reestablish ties with Israel in the coming days, the foreign ministry said Sunday. Tanzania, as many African states, broke ties with Israel in solidarity with Arab states after the 1973 Middle East war, said ministry spokesman Danny Shek. The East African nation will become the 37th African country to resume ties with Israel, most of them since the start of the Mideast peace talks in October 1991.

Saudi warplanes intercept Yemeni jet

SANAA (AFP) — Saudi warplanes intercepted a Yemeni civilian plane which was on a routine flight from Sanaa to Al Buqa near the Saudi border, the official news agency SABA reported Sunday. The Yemeni Foreign Ministry was planning to lodge an official protest with the Saudi authorities after the Dash-7 plane was intercepted, SABA said without giving further details. The Al Buqa region lies some 382 kilometres north of Sanaa and 20 kilometres south of Najran province. Najran and the provinces of Jizzan and Assir are controlled by Saudi Arabia but Yemen claims them. Relations between Sanaa and Riyadh deteriorated during the two-month Yemeni civil war, when northern Yemeni officials accused Saudi Arabia of helping southern breakaway forces. President Ali Abdullah Saleh's troops captured the southern stronghold of Aden on July 7.

Wealth of bidders at Dubai's horse auction

DUBAI (AP) — There was no lack of takers at Sunday's public auction of thoroughbred horses in Dubai, the Middle East's horse racing centre. Several million dollars worth of quality horses were sold at the auction held by the Dubai Racing Club, mainly to local buyers, including members of the royal family. Lower Egypt, a dark bay 3-year-old colt from the United States, got the highest price of 1.6 million dirhams (\$434,783). The buyer was not identified. All 39 horses on auction were imported from abroad by the Dubai Racing Club, which seeks to attract buyers from overseas. They were all sold. Dubai's ruling Al Maktoum family ranks among the world's top race horse owners and is trying to turn this emirate into a regional racing and training centre. Horse racing is booming in Dubai and neighbouring Abu Dhabi, both of which hold annual racing seasons.

Dubai allows two carriers to operate to India

DUBAI (AP) — Dubai has given the green light to its national airline, Emirates, and the Indian flag carrier, Air India, to resume flight operations between the emirate and India, executives said Sunday. The decision to resume flights, starting Monday, was taken independent of a United Arab Emirates' federal suspension of flight connections to India ordered Sept. 28 following an outbreak of pneumonic plague on the subcontinent. Dubai, one of seven emirates federated in the UAE, has 47 regularly scheduled weekly flights to India, the highest number from any Gulf point. Other emirates have yet to resume air connections with India. But Gulf points have been gradually easing their ban. Dubai took its action following an energetic campaign by Indian diplomats.

100-year-old grand Ayatollah hospitalised

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran's 100-year-old Grand Ayatollah Ali Araki, the supreme spiritual guide for Shiite Muslims, was hospitalised Sunday for unspecified reasons, the state-run Islamic Republic News Agency reported. Ayatollah Araki was brought to Tehran's Martyr Rajaei Hospital from the holy city of Qom to be treated for "health problems," said the news agency. Iran's spiritual leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, the most powerful individual in the nation of 60 million, visited Ayatollah Araki at the hospital and prayed for his early recovery, IRNA said. The Society of Teachers of Qom Seminary — the Shiite sect's top scholars — appointed acting cleric grand Ayatollah in December upon the death of his predecessor, Mohammad-Reza Golpaygani. Ayatollah Araki is one of only three remaining grand Ayatollahs in the Shiite world. The others are Hassan Tabatabaie Qom, 86, and Ali Montazeri, 72.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 73111-19

PROGRAMME TWO
17:00 Alice Au Pays Des Merveilles
17:30 Um Pour Tous
18:00 Embarkement Porte 1
18:30 News in French
18:45 Varieties
19:00 News in Hebrew
19:10 Nature of Things
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Leave It To Beaver
21:10 Shades of L.A.
22:00 News in English
22:30 Feature film: "Seminale"
23:50 The Upper Hand

PRAYER TIMES

04:34 Fajr
05:42 (Sunrise) Dhuhr
14:29 Asr
16:59 Maghrib
18:15 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Swiffeth, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel.
62785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.
Church of the Annunciation Tel.
637440.
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Terrace Church Tel: 622366

Church of the Annunciation Tel.
623541.
Anglican Church Tel. 630831, Tel.
628543.
Armenian Catholic Church Tel.
771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel.
773261.
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.
Armenian International Church Tel.
625226.
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel.
824328.
German-speaking Evangelical
Congregation Tel. 684195.
The Church of Jesus Christ of
Latter-Day Saints Tel. 649932.
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691.
The Evangelical Local Church in
Amman
Tel. 811295.

USEFUL
TELEPHONE
NUMBERS
NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Ghaleb Zaidieh 736911
Dr. Yusuf Nasr 731144
Dr. Khalid Asfour 66673
Dr. Fakher Bileis 665412
Firas pharmacy 651912
Firdous pharmacy 773225
Al Asena pharmacy 637055
Nairokh pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yaacoub pharmacy 649495
Shimcani pharmacy 637660
Nairokh pharmacy 623672
Najib pharmacy 847632

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department
of Meteorology.

Unstable weather conditions will
prevail thus. It will be partly cloudy
with a chance of showers and winds
becoming southwesterly moderate. In
Aqaba, skies will be cloudy and
winds northerly moderate with seas
calm.

Min./Max. temp. 18/27

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Aqaba 22 / 33
Deserts 15 / 31
Jordan Valley 22 / 31

Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 30, Aqaba 35. Humidity
readings: Amman 23 per cent,
Aqaba 34 per cent.

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ZARQA:
Dr. Khalid Abu Hussein 985001
Khalifah pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Emergency 630341
Fire Brigade 617011
Police 192, 621111, 637777
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661174
Water and Sewerage 847257
Complaints 661174
Amman Municipality 781111
Telephone Information
(directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone
Repairs 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

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Electric Power
Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Int. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussien Medical Centre 81381/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 6442816
Akileh Maternity, J. Amn 642



Her Royal Highness Princess Rahma Monday (left) is Minister of Planning Hisham Khatib (right) and United Nations Development Programme Director in Amman Othman Hashim (center) during a celebration of United Nations Day. Seated next to the Princess (Petra photo)

Princess Rahma urges equitable sharing of peace dividend

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Royal Highness Princess Rahma Monday said that a balance between both peace-keeping and peace-building and "equally pressing issues of development" should be maintained.

Deputising for His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan at a celebration for United Nations Day, Princess Rahma said that in this singularly significant week, "a new and prosperous era is looked forward to by all

concerned. Peace-building requires the goodwill, patience, perseverance and cooperation of all."

She added, "in promoting prosperity, we must ensure that the peace dividend is equitably shared by all peoples of the region."

Princess Rahma called for using the occasion of United Nations Day "to reflect on the pivotal role that the U.N. agencies can play in bridging gaps within the region."

She cited the United Na-

tions Development Programme 1994 Human Development Report as stating, "We must seek a role for the United Nations to meet humanity's agenda, not only for peace but also for development."

The Princess expressed the country's deep appreciation and full support of the U.N. activities in Jordan and abroad, saying that Jordan is proud to continue to host and facilitate the many and varied U.N. activities in any way possible.



MAJALI MEETS CHEVENEMENT: State Yousef Dalabih, a general review of the Middle East peace process. Dr. Majali dwelt on prospects inherent in the peace treaty to be signed with Israel Wednesday. The French visitor voiced appreciation of the Jordanian efforts, saying they would contribute towards the establishment of a just peace.

International experts stress value of cooperation in improving environment

AMMAN (J.T.) — Delegates from two international unions concerned with population and the environment Monday called for closer cooperation among nations and intensive studies aimed at improving man's environment as a means for promoting living conditions and ensuring development.

John Clarke, of the International Union for Scientific Study on Population, and Daniel Noin from the International Geographic Union, made their call in speeches they delivered at the University of Jordan urging scientists to pursue relentless studies in environment affairs.

They also called for the pursuit of scientific research to help green arid regions. Organised in cooperation

with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), the four-day meeting, entitled "conference on population and environment in arid regions," is set to discuss 22 working papers dealing with a wide range of topics.

A press release from the University of Jordan said that these topics include human responsibility for desertification, environmental issues in arid regions, and population and the environment.

Acting University President Mohammad Maqusi stressed that the conference will focus on man and the environment, being the main factors that confront and affect sustainable development.

Dr. Maqusi suggested that the delegates dedicate efforts

towards helping the creation of an integrated environmental system in the world, taking into account social, cultural, political and economic considerations.

Formerly, concern over the environment was confined to water and its pollutants, but nowadays scientists and environmentalists also direct their attention to other matters directly affecting man such as means of transportation, communications and man's needs for water for various purposes other than drinking, said Dr. Maqusi.

The university said that the delegates will be accompanied on tours to the badia and arid regions of Jordan, and will acquaint themselves with Jordanian experiments designed to develop arid regions.

Jordan participates in conference on books for young people

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan participated in the 24th International IBBY Congress on Books for Young People which was held in Seville, Spain earlier this month.

Margo Malatjalian, director of the National Centre for Culture and Education/Friends of Children Club was delegated to represent Jordan at the congress, which gathered about 800 delegates representing 62 countries.

The two Arab countries represented were Jordan and

Lebanon.

IBBY, the International Board on Books for Young People is a non-profit organisation.

It is an international network of people from all over the world who are committed to bringing books and children together, said a Friends of Children statement.

Plenary lectures and papers delivered during the six-day congress included: children's literature and racial integration, children's litera-

ture as a means of approaching towards promoting equal rights between the sexes, children's literature as a means of approaching and understanding cultural diversity, East and West, North and South: what impressions do we transmit about one another in children's literature? which ideologies and values predominate in children's literature? the importance of illustration as a conveyer of ideas, and theatre as a liberating expression.

Minister explains shift system phase-out, purpose of planned professional allowance

IRBID (Petra) — Minister of Education Abdul Raouf Rawabdeh Monday met with teachers and directors of education departments here to discuss the phasing-out of the two shift schoolday system, the purpose of the planned professional allowance and related matters important to the nation's educationists.

Mr. Rawabdeh said plans are underway to end the two-shift system by erecting more school buildings.

The minister said that the construction of schools is costing the ministry JD 150 million which will be spent in the coming four years during which the ministry-sponsored educational plans will have been implemented.

Mr. Rawabdeh said the ministry has taken a decision to ensure that teachers will be appointed to serve in their own regions where they can settle permanently.

This decision will cover

new education graduates appointed as teachers in ministry schools, added Mr. Rawabdeh, who was speaking at a general meeting of teachers and directors of education here.

Referring to His Majesty King Hussein's recent directives to the government to grant teachers a "professional allowance" and to augment the Teachers Fund by a JD 20 million interest-free loan, Mr. Rawabdeh said that the decision, which is to be implemented by January, was taken to improve teachers' living conditions and provide them with incentives to exert more efforts towards developing the educational process.

The minister stressed that teachers should never resort to physical punishment of students, adding that rectifying students' behaviour should be conducted by following modern educational



Minister of Education Abdul Raouf Rawabdeh Monday addresses a general meeting of teachers and directors of education departments (Petra photo)

methods that cause no bodily or psychological harm to the students.

At the outset of the meet-

ing, Mahmoud Tawalbeh, education department director in Irbid, reviewed the local schools' needs.

The minister toured several schools in Irbid Governorate, accompanied by senior ministry officials.



VISIT TO MINISTRY: Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Monday visits the Ministry of Social Development where he discussed with atmosphere of stability for investments which Minister Mohammad Sqour and senior assistants issues of concern to the ministry. Dr. Majali stressed that peace would create an atmosphere of stability for investments which Minister Mohammad Sqour and senior assistants can help end unemployment and poverty (Petra photo)

More labour disputes being solved through negotiations, says minister

AMMAN (Petra) — The Labour Ministry has been increasingly involved in labour relations issues and industrial disputes over the past years and continues to take a leading role in helping the two sides reach settlements, according to Minister of Labour Khalid Ghazawi.

Speaking at the opening of a seminar on labour relations Monday, Mr. Ghazawi said workers unions are displaying more interest in conducting negotiations with employers as a body rather than individually in order to ensure their rights to better pay and working conditions.

He said the ministry has been contributing to the suc-

cess of this process in order to ensure sound industrial relations and guarantee workers' rights.

Organised by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) office in Amman in cooperation with the Federation of Jordanian Labour Unions, the three-day meeting is set to discuss industrial relations, promoting workers' relations with their employers, collective negotiations and workers education among other topics.

Jordan has been witnessing a growing industry and a significant increase in economic projects and it is natural to see more labour related disputes arising, the minister

said.

The labour ministry normally appoints an arbitration committee and if need be, refers the case to the industrial court to settle disputes, he added.

Khaled Shreim, federation secretary general, reviewed in a speech the main points on the agenda and praised for His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan for Patronising the federation's general conference in Amman earlier this month.

Referring to the present seminar, Mr. Shreim said it was organised to help find proper mechanisms to ensure successful settlement of labour disputes.

Cabinet appoints women to committees

AMMAN (Petra) — In response to a request by Her Royal Highness Princess Basma, who chairs a national committee on women's affairs, the Council of Ministers has approved the appointment of women to the government committees which are operating municipal affairs until the Sept. 1995 municipal elections are held.

A government statement Monday said 30 women were appointed to serve on the committees in their respective regions, adding that women members would direct their attention to women affairs.

The statement stressed the constitutional equal rights of women and said that the appointment of women was in line with the general prin-

ciples and concepts of the national committee and underlines the role of women in promoting public life and contributing to social and economic development.

The list of names includes appointees in committees of municipal councils, but not village councils in different governorates except Amman. No reason was given for excluding Amman.

Next year's municipal elections will be held in implementation of a new law endorsed by Parliament last July.

The Cabinet had decided to dissolve all serving municipal councils, including those run by government-appointed committees, and set up 191 new committees to administer them until the elections.

Mitsubishi car recall not applicable to Jordan

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The local agent for Mitsubishi said Monday that no Mitsubishi cars in Jordan are subject to the recall announced by Mitsubishi last week.

A late letter to the Mitsubishi Motors agent in Amman this week confirmed that none of the recalled cars had been sold in Jordan or Qatar, which was why the Jordanian agent had not been previously informed of the recall.

Zacharia Stetich, chairman and general manager of Mitsubishi Motors in Amman, said his dealership was caught by surprise earlier last week with

the news of the recall; the reason it had not been more forthcoming with information concerning cars sold in Jordan.

News reports last Tuesday said that the Japanese company was recalling some 32,000 passenger cars — Colt and Lancer models — manufactured between August 1993 and February 1994.

The problem, according to Mitsubishi Overseas Service Department is that brake lines on some of the vehicles were not installed according to specifications, which could result in a crack in the brake hose and a leakage of brake fluid at worst.

Canada, Jordan sign memo for \$4.4m assistance project

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Planning Hisham Khatib and Canadian Ambassador to Jordan Andrew Robinson, on behalf of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), Monday signed a memorandum of understanding for a Canadian assistance project for Jordan, valued at six million (\$4.42 million) Canadian dollars.

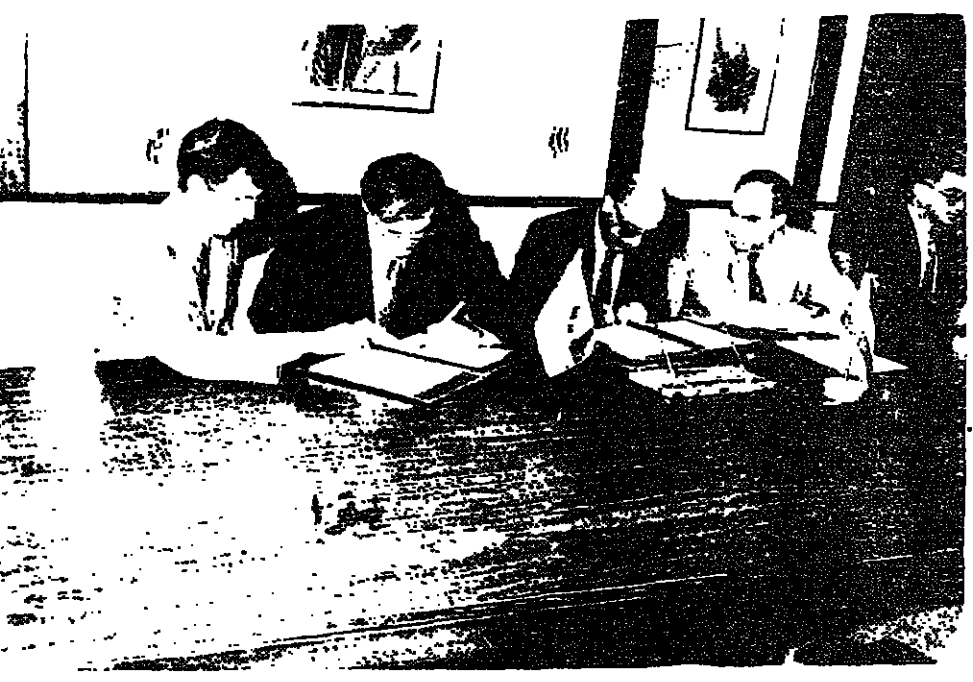
This four-year project, entitled "Economic Development Through Technical Skills", aims at improving technical and vocational education in Jordan, according to a Canadian embassy statement.

It comprises the following major components; strategic planning; capacity-building of the Vocational Training Corporation (VTC); pilot projects linking Canadian colleges with Jordanian community colleges and project management, said the state-

ment.

It added that this initiative will be implemented jointly by the Association of Canadian Community Colleges and four Jordanian partners, namely: the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Higher Education, the Vocational Training Corporation, and the National Centre for Educational Research and Development (NCERD), which will coordinate the Jordanian participation in the project.

According to the statement, this project represents a significant portion of Canada's development assistance to Jordan. Other Canadian assistance includes support to Jordan's balance of payments as well as the structural adjustment policy support programme, which is intended to assist in the reform of government institutions in the water sector.



Canada's Ambassador to Jordan Andrew Robinson (second right) and Minister of Planning Hisham Khatib Monday sign a memorandum of understanding on a \$4.42 million assistance project to Jordan to finance part of Jordan's vocational training programmes which are due to be completed by 1998 (Petra photo)

ITALIAN FILM FESTIVAL

- ★ Film in Italian (with subtitles in English) entitled "Condominio" (Condominium) at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.
- ★ Film in Italian (with subtitles in English) entitled "Il Ladro Di Bambini (Stolen Children)" at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m. (all proceeds to go to the benefit of the Occupational Therapy College).

FILMS

- ★ Spanish film entitled "El Bosque Del Lobo" at Instituto Cervantes (the Spanish Cultural Centre) at 4:30 p.m. (Tel. 610858).

WHAT'S GOING ON

- ★ French film entitled "Cleo" at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation at 6:00 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ First exhibition of "musical" books and publications at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of textiles artist and patchwork by Tuulikki Haddadin at the Gallery located at the Jordan Inter-Continental Hotel.

- ★ Two exhibitions: Paintings by Italian painter Armando Appaja, and a special exhibition of "Polluted City — the Monuments" at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings of Iraqi artist Jabbar Mejbel at Alla Art Gallery.
- ★ Art exhibition by Ahmad Subaih at Baladna Art Gallery.
- ★ Exhibition of art by Samra Hindi entitled "Leaves" at Orfali Art Gallery.
- ★ Exhibition entitled "Spanish Modern Engraving and Multiplied Sculpture" at the Jordan National Gallery, Jabal Luweibdeh (Tel. 630128).

11 Serbs killed in Bosnia attack

PALE, Bosnia (Agencies) — Bosnian government troops killed 11 Serb soldiers and wounded 11 in an attack on an army truck inside a disputed demilitarised zone outside Sarajevo, Bosnian Serb Army (BSA) sources said Monday.

The attack occurred Saturday in the Mount Igman sector of the DMZ where 500 government troops were resisting United Nations and BSA demands that they withdraw.

U.N. sources in Sarajevo were unaware of the incident which would normally have been the subject of a BSA protest.

A statement by the BSA command said "a BSA vehicle was attacked from within the DMZ and suffered serious military casualties." It did not give other details.

The government has been under pressure to evacuate the DMZ since Muslim forces killed 16 Serb soldiers and four women nurses in a commando attack on a BSA command post near Mount Igman this month.

It had refused to withdraw until the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) guarantees the security of a

road across Mount Igman which is under constant BSA attack. The road is the only free Muslim access to Sarajevo.

The BSA has linked the Muslims' withdrawal to the lifting of its own blockade of fuel supplies for UNPROFOR units in eastern Bosnia and Sarajevo.

It refused to let 11 U.N. fuel convoys cross Serb territory Monday despite an agreement to do so between the U.N. and Bosnian Serb political and military leaders during talks Saturday.

U.N. special envoy Yasushi Akashi was calling Bosnian Serb President Radovan Karadzic to "inform him of his outrage and demand immediate clearance for those convoys," a U.N. spokesman said in Sarajevo.

U.N. forces in Gorazde, a U.N.-protected Muslim safe haven in eastern Bosnia, have already run out of fuel to carry out their mission. Zepa, another Muslim enclave nearby, is close to running out.

Peacekeepers said the U.N. troops in Gorazde were down to an operational reserve which was enough to get them out of the town east

of Sarajevo in an emergency.

"It is quite clear (the Serbs) are trying to interfere with our operations," U.N. spokesman Tim Spicer said.

Meanwhile, Bosnian Serb Army (BSA) sources said troops of the Bosnian government army began to evacuate the disputed Mount Igman sector the demilitarised zone outside Sarajevo at noon Monday.

The extent of the withdrawal was not immediately clear but U.N. peacekeepers said the Muslim forces had received orders to begin the evacuation.

U.N. spokesman Thant Myint-U said Bosnian Serb forces reneged Monday on their weekend pledge to lift their blockade of fuel convoys destined to U.N. troops.

Yesterday evening we learned that in fact clearance would not be given for the convoys today," Mr. Myint-U said. "We find this completely intolerable. This is the latest action in a long line of interference by the Bosnian Serb side in the carrying out of our mandate and work."

Bosnian Serb forces, which occupy 70 per cent of the former Yugoslav republic, have only been allowing a

handful of fuel tankers through for some weeks.

Mr. Myint-U said Mr. Akashi would be contacting Mr. Karadzic Monday to protest the blockade.

"It's a very frustrating situation for us," he said. The UNPROFOR in the past has had to ask for permission for each of its convoys to pass through Serb checkpoints. There is an almost routine refusal where fuel is concerned.

U.N. French soldiers Monday were preparing to take over positions on Mount Igman from Bosnian government forces who reportedly began their withdrawal from the restricted area at noon, a UNPROFOR spokesman said here.

Some 60 extra U.N. soldiers would be sent to reinforce the 500 or so French mountain troops already in the Igman zone, according to Sarajevo sector spokesman Lieutenant-Colonel Bernard Labrousque.

The U.N. troops would occupy positions left vacant by Bosnian soldiers who are required to leave the DMZ and fall-back about one kilometre (half-mile), he said.



A South Korean intelligence agency photograph of Cho Chang-Ho (centre), 64, whom the agency says escaped from North Korea, 43 years after his capture in the 1950-53 war, pictured during a reunion with his sister Chang-Su (left), 74 and brother, Chang-Wan, 61, in Seoul's Chung-Ang Hospital (AFP photo)

Korean War POW escapes from North

SEOUL (AFP) — A former South Korean army officer because he has long suffered from chronic lung diseases and was exhausted, the NSP said, as local newspapers reported that his name was inscribed at the National Cemetery as among the fallen in the 1950-53 war.

At the hospital, Mr. Cho was greeted by two ageing relatives contacted by the agency — a 74-year-old sister and a 61-year-old brother.

"It's like a dream," his sister Cho Chang-Suk was quoted as screaming in the emotional reunion with her brother, photographs of which were handed out by the agency.

When he was rescued, Mr. Cho said he had been captured by Chinese soldiers in a battlefield in 1951 while serving as an artillery second lieutenant during the Korean War, the agency said.

Mr. Cho told investigators that in North Korea, he was held in a prison camp near the northeastern port of Wonsan for 13 years until 1963, then worked as a miner in a remote mountain site from 1964 to 1977.

He said he was released in the late 1970s from the mine and had been virtually unemployed since then, the intelligence agency said.

Newspapers quoted cemetery officials as saying that in 1977 a small plaque had been put up in the name of Second Lieutenant Chang, listing him as having died in combat in 1951 — under a ruling that a missing man should be listed as dead if he does not turn up within 25 years.

The plaque would be the first ever taken down from the memorial when the Defence Ministry orders its removal.

Mr. Cho told investigators that in North Korea, he was held in a prison camp near the northeastern port of Wonsan for 13 years until 1963, then worked as a miner in a remote mountain site from 1964 to 1977.

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New Charles revelations greet returning Diana

LONDON (R) — Princess Diana returned Monday from a brief but busy visit to the United States as the furor over revelations about her husband's relationship with another woman dominated British newspapers.

Her flight from Washington touched down before dawn. Princess Diana, said to be crushed by Prince Charles' complaint that he had never loved her and was forced into the marriage by his bullying father, smiled but ignored reporters hoping for a repeat performance of a personal interview she gave in Washington.

Before leaving the United States Sunday, Princess Diana said she was optimistic about the future and preferred not to dwell on the past. "I hope we can now look forward to the future and not hang onto the past," she told Brazil's TV Globo.

British newspapers described her visit, with its lunches and dinners with Amer-

ica's movers and shakers, as a dazzling success and sparked speculation that the princess was considering making a new life for herself in the United States.

"Diana's eyes on the states", the mass-market Daily Mail said in a front-page headline beside a photograph of her husband's former mistress, Camilla Parker Bowles.

Whatever respite the princess enjoyed during her trip, she returned to a media frenzy over her husband having admitted in an authorised biography to having three separate affairs with Mrs. Parker Bowles.

The latest episode in the royal soap opera was given in excerpts of the biography published in the Sunday Times.

They said Charles turned to Camilla, married to a military officer, for the third time at the end of 1986 or early in 1987 after he felt his marriage to Princess Diana had broken



Princess Diana

down. They said she gave him the warmth and understanding he never found with Princess Diana and became the most intimate friend of his life.

Princess Diana went to the United States to visit her friend Lucia Flecha de Lima, wife of the Brazilian ambassador in Washington, after Prince Charles was quoted as saying he had never loved her and was pressed into their 1981 marriage by the Duke of Edinburgh.

The Sun newspaper said Monday that Prime Minister John Major was giving his full support to the princess. "I am not prepared to see this young woman broken or publicly humiliated," the paper quoted Mr. Major as telling friends.

It added that he ordered officials to ensure Princess Diana received top VIP status as an independent royal on all her engagements.

Last week the royal couple took the unusual step of denying through their lawyers

that they were planning to formally end their marriage after a French magazine reported that they had agreed a \$24.5 million divorce settlement.

The Sunday Times excerpts of the biography by journalist and broadcaster Jonathan Dimbleby also said he had decided to separate from Princess Diana because he thought she was denying him access to their two sons.

Princess Diana is expected to see her sons, Prince William, 12, and Prince Harry, 10, this week. The young princes, who are on half-term school holiday, spend the weekend with their father at Balmoral. Queen Elizabeth's country estate in the Scottish highlands.

Mr. Dimbleby also revealed that Prince Charles has been advised by the Church of England that he could remain in his legal position if his still separation from Princess Diana led to divorce.



Camilla Parker-Bowles

Clinton trades D.C. for Washington state stumping

SEATTLE, Washington (AFP) — President Bill Clinton's campaign tour took him to Washington state Sunday where Republicans hope to grab congressional seats including House of Representatives Speaker Tom Foley's.

But Mr. Foley was conspicuously absent at a rally here for Senate hopeful Ron Sims, raising speculation that the 30-year veteran Democrat and focal point of anti-incumbent fervour feared association with the unpopular president.

The powerful House speaker instead prepared for a Sunday night debate in his Spokane, Washington district.

Mr. Clinton, aware of his own stake in the Nov. 8 vote which would mark the halfway point to his own reelection bid, lashed out at Republicans for distorting the record of his party which is struggling to hold its majority in Congress.

"We have got to was America's windshield in the next two weeks so they can see the light," Mr. Clinton said at the rally for Mr. Sims, who is challenging Republican Senator Slade Gorton.

The president also touted his latest foreign policy coups in Haiti and the Gulf and asked voters to pray for his clearly minded trip next week, clearly stating that he has scored better on foreign issues than on his domestic agenda of late.

In fact Mr. Clinton scram-

bled Sunday to deny that his budget office was proposing steep cuts in health (Medicare) and welfare benefits after a leaked memo dropped a would-be pre-election bombshell.

The Washington Post published a report on the Oct. 3 memo from Budget Director Alice Rivlin that listed tax increases and social spending cuts for the next two years.

But Mr. Clinton said that the memo was merely a "list of options," and that none was currently being considered by the White House. Republicans immediately charged the memo showed Democrats were hypocrites in claiming that they alone could safeguard voters' health and welfare benefits.

"I do not support cuts in Social Security," Mr. Clinton told reporters.

Before boarding Air Force One for his next stop, Ohio, the president told reporters, "I don't support cuts in Social Security and I would support savings in Medicare only if they're used to advance the cause of health care."

He also challenged Republican leaders to promise they would not cut Social Security and that they would use Medicare "savings" only for health care reform.

The president's remarks followed a flurry of statements by White House officials denying that Democrats are ready to cut entitlements. "Cutting Social Security and Medicare are the proposals of our opponents, not this

administration," White House Chief of Staff Leon Panetta said.

The White House is hoping Mr. Clinton's stops in California and Washington state this weekend will boost the president's dwindling approval rating in the West, which often has split with him over environmental issues and gun control.

And this state in the northwestern corner of the country could be crucial in the mid-term elections to elect all 435 representatives and one-third of the Senate as six of the eight House seats up for grabs here belong to Democrats.

Mr. Foley is facing the stiffest challenge in his three-decade career in Congress. He has spent the last five years at the head of the lower chamber.

Though the speaker's considerable influence has won the state valuable projects, it has also turned into something of a liability given the anti-incumbent climate sweeping the states.

Republican attorney George Nethercutt is now running neck-and-neck with Mr. Foley and his appeal appears to be based mainly on his status as a "Washington outsider," the same banner Foley campaigned under when he wrested the seat from a 22-year veteran in 1964.

Meanwhile, Oliver North, the ex-Marine who admitted he lied to Congress in the 1986 Iran-contra hearings, is

making a comeback as the most controversial contender in the Nov. 8 congressional elections.

Col. North, 50, is hoping to launch a Virginia Senate seat and taking his place alongside elected officials who have vilified him as a liar and a disgrace to the military.

Backed by religious hardliners, is campaigning on a platform that promises to kill President Clinton's reform agenda and give government back to conservative America.

"This is our government, you stole it, and we are going to take it back," he vowed in June when Virginians chose him to be the Republican nominee.

The former national security adviser under former President Ronald Reagan has charged that Clinton's White House is being run by "twentysomething kids with an ear-ring and an axe to grind."

Democrats have hammered away at Col. North's role in the Iran-contra affair in which he and others secretly sold weapons to Iran in exchange for the release of American hostages and later diverted the funds to arm Nicaraguan guerrillas.

Col. North was convicted on three counts: Obstruction of Congress, destroying official security documents, and accepting an illegal gift, a security system for his home. He appealed the charges and they were overturned.

3 killed by grenade in Rwandan camp

GENEVA (R) — Up to three Rwandan refugees were killed and 13 seriously wounded in a hand grenade blast at a camp near the Zairean town of Goma, the U.N. said Monday.

The U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said the grenade exploded Sunday evening in a crowded part of Mugunga camp, which houses soldiers from Rwanda's former Hutu-led government and their

families.

UNHCR medical personnel called to the scene found 14 seriously wounded people, one of whom later died. They were told that the bodies of two others who died in the blast had already been removed.

"There's been no explanation. We don't know if it was gang warfare or just a drunk," said UNHCR spokeswoman Ruth Marshall.

"It's yet another security incident in the camps," she added. "There's a complete lack of law and order. We're impotent to deal with these camps."

The UNHCR said last week it was gravely concerned about security in camps housing some two million Rwandan refugees. It said elements from the defeated government were manipulating and disrupting aid operations.

Russian troops seize arms in Dnestr

CHISNAU (R) — Russian troops in Moldova seized a shipment of arms destined to be smuggled to Simferopol in Ukraine's Crimea region, a senior officer told Reuters Monday.

Colonel Mikhail Bergman, military commandant of Tiraspol in Moldova's breakaway Dnestr region, said his 14th Army soldiers intercepted 150 Kalashnikov automatic weapons as they were being loaded into a vehicle Friday night.

Col. Bergman said his men arrested Vladimir Rumyantsev, an aide to the Interior Minister of the breakaway Dnestr region, whose leaders have frequently been accused by the 14th Army of corruption and arms trafficking.

"This is not the first time a gang of local criminals have tried to sell arms to troublemakers," Col. Rumyantsev said. He said Mr. Bergman had

told investigators that more than 1,000 weapons had already been sold to Moscow and more than 600 to Ukraine.

There was no comment from the Dnestr authorities. Two years ago, during fighting between Dnestr separatists and Moldovan forces in which several hundred people died, more than 20,000 weapons were stolen from the 14th Army's stocks.

Russia and Moldova signed an agreement last week on the withdrawal over a three-year-period of the army and its vast stocks of weapons and munitions, said by military sources to include hundreds of thousands of shells and 450,000 automatic weapons.

Dnestr authorities have laid claim to the entire arsenal of their rightful property. Col. Bergman said that following the withdrawal agreement the army's units were

now "completely encircled by criminals of all types wishing to buy arms."

Army commander Lieutenant-General Alexander Lebed has warned of a possible collapse in morale among his estimated 15,000 men, few of whom have any desire to leave for Russia.

"I am able to control the army only while it is firmly stationed here and all arms and ammunition are safely guarded," Moldovan Radio quoted Lebed as saying at the weekend.

About two-thirds of Crimea's 2.7 million residents are ethnic Russians. Moscow ruled the region from the 18th century until 1954, when Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev transferred it to Ukraine. Disputes have arisen in Crimea over efforts to move the area out of Ukraine's control and closer to Russia.

12 killed in Australia bus crash

BRISBANE (R) — Twelve people, most of them elderly widows, were killed Monday when a bus taking them on a shopping trip plunged down a steep embankment just north of the Australian city of Brisbane.

Police said 20 of 39 people taken to hospital were in serious condition, most with severe fractures. The 12th body was found in the wreckage several hours after the crash about 13 kilometres north of the city.

It was the worst bus accident in four years in Australia, which has a history of bad bus crashes.

The cause was not known but police said they were looking into the possibility of a mechanical fault. Witnesses said the bus's front wheels began to wobble just before it plunged into a gully beside a four-lane highway.

The driver survived but was badly injured. Police set up a temporary morgue near the crash scene. "We're trying to match limbs with bodies before they are removed," a police spokesman said.

Officials said the injured were taken to four Brisbane-area hospitals by four helicopters and 25 ambulances.

A spokeswoman for the bus company, Wide Bay Tours, said the group, from Maryborough, 400 kilometres north of Brisbane, was on a day outing to a shopping complex south of the city.

Fifty-six people had booked for the trip but police said 51 were aboard the bus when it crashed. Australian Broadcasting Corporation Radio said the dead included a two-year-old girl.

Barry Comer, 57, and his wife, Jill, were among the first on the scene after the bus crashed near the suburb of Boondall.

Race issue stirs controversy in Simpson case

LOS ANGELES (R) — The O.J. Simpson trial is supposed to be about murder but the volatile issue of race keeps grabbing centre stage.

From the start, the sensational double-homicide case has taken on strong racial overtones, reopening old wounds in a city that only two and a half years ago was the scene of the worst U.S. riots this century.

Simpson had long reigned as one of the best-loved black U.S. celebrities. The football hero had become the colour line to cross what marketing experts call "race neutral." His alleged victims — ex-wife Nicole Brown Simp-

son and her friend Ronald Goldman — were white.

As the case has unfolded polls have shown blacks are twice as likely as whites to sympathise with Simpson, by a ratio of 68 per cent to 34 per cent. Nearly half of black Americans doubt he can get a fair trial.

Race first surfaced in court proceedings in mid-July after Simpson's defence leaked a damaging report accusing a detective of being a racist "rogue cop" and of planting a bloody glove he found at Simpson's estate. Prosecutors called the accusation groundless.

Buried in the pages of

court transcripts just unsealed from a closed-door hearing last week were details of the sharpest clash yet over what both sides had dubbed "the race card."

Prosecutor Marcia Clark bluntly accused defence attorneys of first denying they intended to make an issue of race and then blatantly injecting it in their attack on Los Angeles police detective Mark Fuhrman.

"In a very hideous and damaging way they have attempted to speak on Mark Fuhrman with the most vicious of allegations concerning racism," Ms. Clark complained to Judge Lance Ito.

Madonna wants 3 babies

LONDON (R) — Rambo pop star Madonna says she wants to have three children and has found a prospective father but she's silent about his identity. Madonna, in an interview broadcast on BBC Television Sunday night, acknowledged she had difficulty with relationships because she always had to make the first move and men were often intimidated by her fame and riches. Asked whether she really wanted children, the 36-year-old pop singer said, "Yeah definitely. I wish all three of them were sitting on my bed right now." But Madonna, interviewed by comedienne Ruby Wax in a room in the Ritz Hotel in Paris, refused to divulge the name of the man she has in mind as her father. When Ms. Wax asked her whether she had found the right man, Madonna replied, "Yes I have... no it's not a plumber but I could see him fixing my sink." Madonna, also famed for her book Sex and her screen role in desperately Seeking Susan, had confided earlier that she could see herself falling in love with a plumber as long as he was totally committed and enthusiastic about his job. Madonna said she regretted the breakup of many love affairs, particularly with screen heart-throb Warren Beatty. She said she had really cared for and loved Beatty and described him as funny and smart.

Kevin ousts Antoine in new Anglo-Saxon invasion

PARIS (AFP) — Kevin has ousted Pierre and Antoine at the vanguard of an Anglo-Saxon invasion of French Christian names, according to a new reference book. The 1995 names guide published by Balland puts the name made famous by Mr. Costner at the top of its list for boys, way ahead of more traditional Gallic choices. Other none-too-French names becoming a la mode include Thomas, Quentin and Hugo, according to the book put together by sociologist Philippe Besnard and demographer Guy Desplanches. French bourgeois families are of course keeping to the more conservative choices of Antoine or Pierre for their male heirs, the book is quick to point out. But more common choices with the lower orders include Bryan, Dylan, Jordy and Brandon for boys, while Sarah, Julie and Alison are doing well with the girls. The top choice for a baby girl is the tried-and-tested Laura, followed closely by the conservative Marine, Camille, Marion, Manon, Justine, Pauline and Anaïs. One name singled out for particular attention in the book is Edouard, which it says has been going in and out of style since it arrived on French shores in the 1820s.

Dennis cartoonist to retire

MONTEREY, Calif. (R) — Hank Ketcham, the cartoonist who created Dennis the Menace and has drawn the popular newspaper strip for 44 years, said Sunday that he planned to retire at the end of the year. Ketcham, 74, who announced his retirement in an interview with the Monterey County Herald, said he wanted to concentrate on his more serious painting. Ketcham has his studio in Monterey on the central California coast and lives in nearby Carmel Valley. Ketcham has until now drawn all the Dennis the Menace cartoons with some help from assistants. The strip, about a mischievous boy, appears in more than 1,800 newspapers in 50 countries. After his retirement, the cartoons will continue to be drawn by two other cartoonists Ketcham has hired. The daily cartoons will be drawn by Marcus Hamilton of Charlotte, North Carolina, and the Sunday comic strip by Ron Ferdinand of Monterey. Ketcham and his late wife Alice were living near Monterey in October 1950 when he created a cartoon strip named after their rambunctious son Dennis, three years old at the time. Ketcham told the Monterey County Herald that the inspiration for the character came from his wife who "marched into the studio, banged her fist down on my drawing board and hissed, 'your son is a menace.' 'My gracious', I said, 'Dennis is a menace? Wait a minute, that sounds too good to be true.' There have been more than 16,000 Dennis the Menace cartoons since then.

Bomb kills Sri Lanka opposition leader

Tamil woman rebel behind blast that killed 56 others

COLOMBO (R) — A woman Tamil guerrilla wearing a jacket fitted with a bomb is suspected of triggering the suicide blast which killed Sri Lanka's opposition leader and 56 others, police said Monday.

"We believe the severed head of a woman found on top of a two-storey building near the blast was that of the bomber," a senior officer told reporters.

The government indefinitely postponed peace talks set for Monday with the rebels after the bomb packed with ball bearings ripped through a presidential election campaign rally just after midnight Sunday.

But it said the November 9 poll would go ahead despite the death of opposition leader Gamini Dissanayake and the 56 others.

Police said pieces of a jacket thought to have carried the bomb were found. The senior officer, who declined to be named, said a similar jacket was used by the woman who killed former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in south India in 1991 while presenting him with a garland.

Mr. Dissanayake, the United National Party (UNP) candidate, had just finished addressing the rally in the Colombo suburb of Grandpass when the bomb went off.

"Dissanayake clasped his hands and his last words were... I wanted to say good night but now I say good morning... the time was 12.10 a.m.," a witness said.

Police said up to 75 people were seriously wounded, with others slightly hurt.

The government called off peace talks with the Tamil Tigers that were due to resume Monday after a first round on Oct. 13 and imposed an indefinite curfew.

Both sides had expressed initial optimism about ending the 11-year separatist war that has killed more than 30,000 people.

Elections Commissioner Chandrananda De Silva said the presidential poll would go ahead as scheduled and asked the UNP to name a replacement. The party said it would do so Tuesday.

A likely choice is ex-premier Ranil Wickremesinghe.

The cabinet met in two emergency sessions and was due to meet again later Monday.

"It was a human bomb," a senior military officer said. "There was a person in the crowd in the second or third row who had explosives. Then there was a blast which was carried forward towards the stage."

State television showed footage of the carnage, including severed limbs and a collapsed stage.



Gamini Dissanayake

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The curfew kept people off the streets but newspapers and international news agencies were inundated with callers seeking information.

Troops increased checkpoints across the city and searched most vehicles entering the capital. They were reinforced by battalions moving in from the east, military sources said.

Prime Minister Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga condemned the attack but called for restraint. Political analysts said the government feared a possible ethnic backlash by majority Sinhalese against the minority Tamil community, some of whom

support rebel demands for a separate state.

A journalist covering the rally said he saw about 15 people lying dead on the platform.

Mr. Dissanayake, 52, was the main presidential challenger to Mrs. Kumaratunga and was running an intensive campaign. He had been entrusted with reviving the UNP's fortunes after it lost its 17-year hold on power to Mrs. Kumaratunga's People's Alliance in the August general election.

Mr. Dissanayake, had said he was under threat from the rebels and security around him had been intensified. On Friday a bomb was flung at his home at Kandy but no

one was hurt.

Mr. Dissanayake, then a senior government minister, was the architect of the India-Sri Lanka accord in 1987 under which Indian troops were sent to implement a peace pact to end the Tamil guerrilla campaign.

The rebels initially accepted the pact but later opposed it and ended up fighting the Indians.

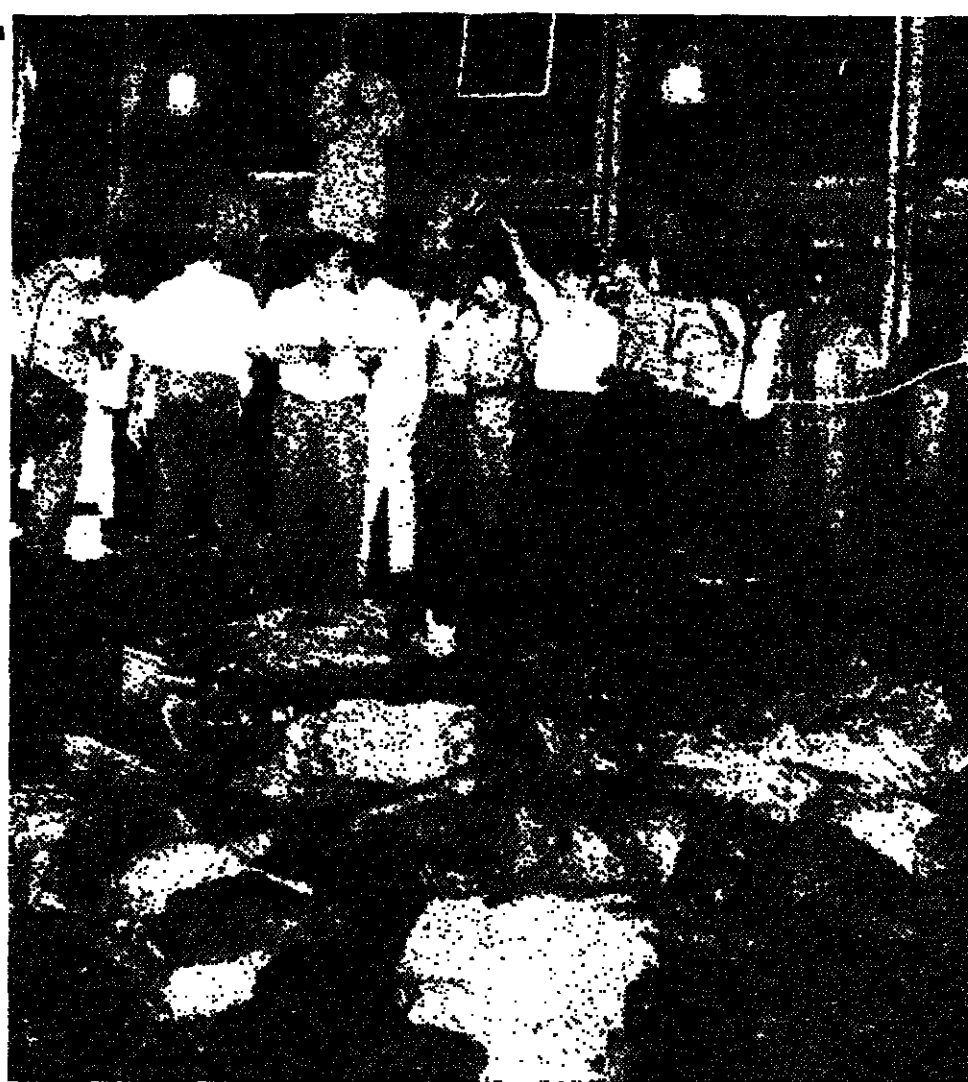
Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa, in Colombo in May 1993, and Mr. Gandhi, in south India in 1991, were killed by suspected Tamil rebel suicide bombers.

The Tamil insurgents denied the attacks.

Dismissed from the UNP in 1991 after an abortive impeachment attempt against Mr. Premadasa, Mr. Dissanayake returned to the party earlier this year and took over as its parliamentary leader after its August loss.

He will receive a state funeral Saturday. His body was moved to his luxurious home in a wealthy section of Colombo from the hospital morgue Monday afternoon.

The General Secretary of the UNP, Gamini Wijesekera, former Labour Minister G.M. Premachandra and former Food and Cooperative Minister Weerasinghe Mallimarachchi were among those killed.



Police and forensic experts look over victims with 50 other people. The powerful bomb ripped through the stage where Mr. Dissanayake held a political rally (AFP photo). Dissanayake was assassinated early Monday along

Seoul's Kim apologises for bridge disaster

SEOUL (R) — South Korean President Kim Young-Sam Monday rejected his prime minister's resignation offer but apologised to the nation for the collapse of a bridge in Seoul last week which killed 32 people.

Mr. Kim spoke in a televised address to the nation after the opposition brought parliament to a standstill by announcing a three-day boycott to press for the entire cabinet's resignation over the disaster last Friday.

A presidential spokesman said Mr. Kim had returned resignation letter from Prime Minister Lee Yung-Dug during a meeting with him early Monday at the presidential Blue House.

Mr. Kim said in his television statement he was refusing Mr. Lee's resignation "because I wholeheartedly assume responsibility."

"I really feel sorry for the worries this incident has caused to the people," he said.

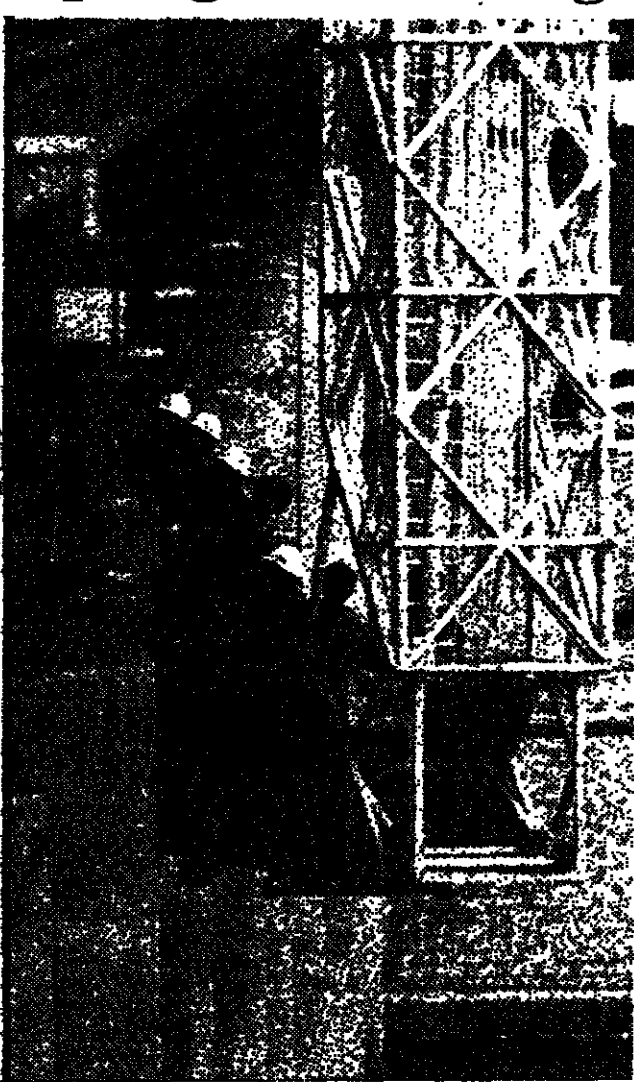
He said his government assumed full responsibility for the incident, which he called a "ready-made" disaster, and would do all it could to make sure nothing similar happened again.

Investigators say they believe the bridge collapsed after rusted extension hinges broke under heavy loads. Officials allegedly reported no safety problems to the city government without having carried out statutory daily checks.

Just after Mr. Kim's address, television news carried reports of a fresh tragedy and additional embarrassment for Mr. Kim — a fire on a pleasure boat in the south of the country that killed at least eight people. Police said 24 people were missing.

The main opposition Democratic Party (DP) said earlier that it would boycott parliamentary sessions for three days from Monday to press its demands for the cabinet to resign.

Mr. Kim responded by saying there would be no immediate reshuffle due to the disaster.



South Korean engineers check the underside of a Han River bridge on Monday. Engineers and inspectors are working countrywide to check old bridge structures in the wake of Friday's collapse of the busy commuter bridge over the Han, which left 32 dead and 17 injured (AFP photo).

earlier that it would boycott parliamentary sessions for three days from Monday to press its demands for the cabinet to resign.

Mr. Kim responded by saying there would be no immediate reshuffle due to the disaster.

"More important and urgent at this time is how to secure safety for citizens in their daily life rather than reshuffling the cabinet," the spokesman quoted Mr. Kim as telling Mr. Lee.

But the DP said it would submit a parliamentary motion next Thursday calling for the resignation of Mr. Kim's cabinet.

"The fact that... Lee's letter of resignation was returned proved that the current government has no capability to gauge public feelings and to manage state affairs," a DP spokesman said.

Seoul Mayor Lee Won-Jong was sacked Friday after the collapse of a 50-metre section of the Songsu Bridge into the Han River during the morning rush hour, which killed at least 32 people and injured 17.

News reports said Mr. Lee might soon be summoned by prosecutors for questioning.

State prosecutors grilled six senior Seoul officials Sunday and charged five others with negligence in connection with the disaster.

Traffic on the 16 remaining bridges over the river in Seoul was markedly lower at the weekend, with commuters preferring to take the subway.

The collapse of the four-lane bridge was just one of a series of embarrassments for Mr. Kim's cabinet since he came to office in February last year.

The government's security capabilities were questioned recently after a series of grisly murders and after two army officers deserted in protest over a lack of discipline in the military.

The administration's diplomacy was criticised after Seoul supported Washington's nuclear deal last week with North Korea that will provide the Communist North with new nuclear reactors and delay inspections of its key nuclear facilities.

A corruption scandal involving tax officers has also marred reforms, in which priority was given to ending graft.

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Major stands by his man as sleaze row grows

LONDON (R) — British Prime Minister John Major continued to back a government colleague at the heart of an influence peddling row Monday as pressure grew on a senior cabinet member to clear up his role in the affair.

Mr. Major's aides said the prime minister still supported Junior Trade Minister Neil Hamilton, who was urged at the weekend by some fellow conservatives to stand down while he fights charges that he accepted payments to ask questions in parliament on behalf of Harrods Department Store owner Mohammad Ali Fayed.

"Neil Hamilton is a minister in the government. The prime minister has full confidence in all his ministers," a senior government official said.

Junior Northern Ireland Minister Tim Smith resigned over the allegations, published last Thursday by the Guardian, but Mr. Hamilton denied them and is suing the newspaper.

Mr. Hamilton has also come under fire for not disclosing a free holiday in 1987 at Paris's plush Ritz Hotel owned by Ali Fayed, who sought to entail the support of members of parliament in his battle with the Lomho conglomerate to control Harrods.

The controversy is deeply embarrassing for Mr. Major, whose government is already seen by many voters as sleazy and disreputable after 15 years in power.

In a bid to defuse the row, Mr. Major's office said it intended to publish the results of a three-week inquiry into the allegations conducted by cabinet secretary Sir Robin Butler.

Mr. Major, who planned to study Mr. Butler's report later Monday, has also asked the minister for open government, David Hunt, to look at the "wider issues" raised by the affair.

But officials refused to say whether Mr. Butler's report would go beyond the allegations levelled at Mr. Smith and Mr. Hamilton.

The Mail on Sunday newspaper reported that Mr. Howard, the interior minister, had intervened to speed up an application for British citizenship by Mr. Fayed's brother, Ali.

A spokesman for Mr. Howard's ministry denied Ali Fayed had received special treatment, saying: "The home secretary was concerned at all times to see that procedures followed by the department were fair to Mr. Fayed."

Labour's immigration spokesman, Graham Allen, wants an inquiry into Mr. Howard's reported intervention, while its home affairs spokesman, Jack Straw, has said he would press Mr. Howard to make a statement to the House of Commons.

Balladur digs at Chirac ahead of polls

PARIS (AFP) — Prime Minister Edouard Balladur criticised his rival for the French presidency Jacques Chirac in an interview published Monday and set himself five tasks ahead of the elections due next April and May.

In an interview with the conservative daily Le Figaro, Mr. Balladur criticised Gaullist leader Chirac for his behaviour during the franc crisis in the summer of 1993, when France was under pressure to pull out of the European Monetary System.

"I think he shared my determination to hold out," Mr. Balladur said. "But he kept quiet so as not to upset anyone in the RPR (Chirac's Rally for the Republic Party). For a long time, Chirac has taken refuge in his party as if it were a citadel."

Pro-Chirac Gaullist former minister and president of the National Assembly's Legal Affairs Commission Pierre Mazeaud immediately blasted Mr. Balladur for "ingratitude", saying he should show "a minimum of decency."

"If Edouard Balladur is where he is, everyone knows that it is essentially thanks to Jacques Chirac and thanks to the RPR."

Mr. Balladur joked that he would perhaps be "on holiday" after the presidential, but set himself five tasks ahead of the vote.

These were to supervise recovery from the recession, to restore the confidence of French youth, to fight corruption, to create jobs and to

reactivate the European Union.

The prime minister made a new appeal to the ruling conservative coalition to end infighting over the presidential elections. "We have to govern until the election. Six months in the life of a country cannot be neglected for electoral considerations."

He said the government would "do nothing" if it was constantly preoccupied by the elections.

Mr. Balladur explained why he had accepted the premiership in April 1993. "I had the feeling I could do a little less badly than the rest."

The prime minister also announced a new French initiative within the EU, but did not give details. He said parliament would debate the initiative next December.

France takes over the EU chairmanship on Jan. 1. Meanwhile ecologists Sunday nominated a candidate from the French Green Party to contest presidential elections next year, officials said.

A convention of ecologist groups elected Green Party spokeswoman Dominique Voynet to stand in the elections in April and May to succeed Socialist President Francois Mitterrand.

She was elected by 78.5 per cent of the 1,820 delegates at the convention, which included representatives from a number of ecologist groups. There were no other candidates for the nomination.

Ms. Voynet, 36, said she planned to force ecological issues into public debate, but

conceded that she stood no real chance in the ballots. Her candidature would "allow ecologists to influence the choice of the future president and obtain clear commitments from him," she said.

Ms. Voynet is a founding member of the French Greens, and has been their spokeswoman since 1992.

Ms. Voynet is only the second candidate to be formally nominated to stand in the ballots. National Front leader Jean-Marie Le Pen announced his candidacy last month.

The main contenders are expected to be Mr. Balladur and Mr. Chirac from the right, and outgoing European Commission President Jacques Delors from the left.

In a separate development, French Justice Minister Pierre Mehaugier, hit by corruption rumours, vowed on Monday not to pressure the judiciary as graft cases snowballed across the country.

Mr. Mehaugier pledged to allow France's tough new breed of examining magistrates to continue their work unimpeded as an unprecedented debate on corruption raged in France.

Former Communications Minister Alain Carignon has been remanded in custody charged with corruption and Industry Minister Gerard Longuet quit over allegations that, in a corrupt deal, he paid a bargain basement price for a second home he had built on the French Riviera. He has not yet been charged.

IAEA to examine U.S.-N. Korea accord

VIENNA (AFP) — The International Atomic Energy Agency will hold an informal meeting in Vienna Tuesday to discuss the nuclear accord signed in Geneva Friday between the United States and North Korea.

Several countries, including France, were wary of the accord while the IAEA director general, Hans Blix of Sweden, displayed reserve in a statement released Thursday over delays in inspecting North Korea's nuclear facilities.

IAEA spokesman David Kyd said that Mr. Blix, who spent last week meeting with top State Department officials in the U.S. will survey IAEA member countries on their opinions of the agreement signed in Geneva.

Mr. Kyd said that decisions will not be made at the meeting, which will be held at the ambassadorial level.

The IAEA is directly involved in the Geneva accord, being responsible for overseeing the freeze of North Korea's programme of graphite reactors which produce plutonium that could be used in nuclear weapons. The freeze should be completed in one month's time and the IAEA is authorised to carry out surveillance during this period and thereafter.

To do this, the agency needs a special mandate, which could be given by the United Nations Security Council, Mr. Kyd said. A Western diplomat said in Vienna Monday that the U.S. intended to propose a resolution to the U.N. this week giving the IAEA the proper mandate.

The Geneva accord also stipulates that while new light-water reactors are being built to replace the graphite-based power plants, but before the delivery of key nuclear materials, the IAEA will be permitted the necessary inspections of North Korea's nuclear facilities.

The chief U.S. negotiator, Robert Gallucci, said this would take about five years.

The IAEA has said for more than a year that it was necessary to inspect two North Korean nuclear sites whose existence has never been confirmed by Pyongyang.

During the agency's general assembly in September, it renewed calls for inspections in North Korea, including the two undeclared locations, and demanded full cooperation between Pyongyang and the agency.

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8 killed, 24 missing after S. Korean boat fire

SEOUL (R) — At least eight people were killed and 24 were missing after a fire engulfed a pleasure boat on a South Korean lake Monday, a local police officer said.

The officer said the death toll was likely to rise as more bodies were believed to be inside the burned-out boat that had been carrying 131 people, including three crew.

The blaze, at Chungju, Lake 120 kilometres south of Seoul, had taken an hour to bring under control, he said.

He said 18 people were being treated in nearby hospitals and the remaining 81 people were known to have been rescued or to have escaped the fire.

Rescue teams are still trying to search for the missing people, the officer said.

He said the eight who were killed drowned after jumping into the lake to escape the blaze or were burned to death.

Television pictures showed the boat completely consumed by flames. A witness said the fire started at the rear of the boat and engulfed the whole vessel in 10 minutes.



Flames leap from a pleasure boat which caught fire Monday with more than 120 people aboard in a resort lake near the central South Korean city of Chungju (AFP photo).

into the water to escape the fire. Others were taken off by a passing pleasure boat.

"I was on the deck and saw black smoke belching out from near the engine room," passenger Lee Un-Bong, 57, was quoted as saying by Yonhap.

Mr. Lee said many passengers reached the passing boat

lifejackets.

Yonhap said the boat's captain Moon Se-Kwon survived and was being questioned by police.

The stricken boat was a 54-tonne vessel used for pleasure cruises on the lake, a popular tourist destination.

The accident follows a major disaster in the national capital Seoul Friday in which

32 people were killed and 17 injured when a road bridge collapsed without warning during the morning rush hour.

The boat fire will add to the embarrassment of the government of President Kim Young-Sam, who has promised to deal severely with those responsible for the

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Editorial and advertising offices:

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Incoherence breeds the spoilers of peace

IT APPEARS that Israel is addressing the Islamic resistance movement, Hamas, in the West Bank and Gaza Strip with two different tongues in the wake of last week's attack in Tel Aviv. On the one hand, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin is reported to have issued orders to his military people to hunt down Hamas leaders wherever they may be in a bid to eliminate as many of them as possible. On the other, Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin is sending Hamas an olive branch by suggesting that his government would be willing to have a meaningful dialogue with Hamas on ending violence against both the Israeli as well as the Palestinian peoples.

These seemingly contradictory stances fit well with previous Israeli patterns in dealing with complex and difficult challenges. To begin with, previous Israeli policies in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip did contribute to the rise of Muslim fundamentalists. Israeli policymakers promoted the Islamists in the past as a counter force to the PLO and its main faction, Fateh. It was Israel's way of neutralising the PLO when the time was still not ripe to engage it in negotiations.

Since those early times, Hamas has grown to unmanageable proportions, posing a danger not only to the PLO but to Israel as well. Should Mr. Beilin's offer to talk business with Hamas reflect in fact a change of mood in Israel about how best to deal with Hamas, the PLO will be the one that could suffer from these new policies, considering the confrontational policy with which PLO leader Yasser Arafat has been approaching Hamas since he moved to Gaza earlier this year. The stage is set for more confrontation between the PLO and the Islamists once Israel starts dealing with Hamas. Of course, Mr. Arafat could preempt any such Israeli move should he succeed in bridging the gap between the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) and the militant opposition within the areas under his control. There are some "moderate" leaders within Hamas, who could be addressed to serve as some kind of interlocutor between the PNA and Hamas militants. Till that happens, the PLO will remain squeezed between different currents with considerable risk to its survival. With the borders of Israel completely closed to the Palestinian people and the shortage of funds, the PLO could find itself in a bind as long as its control over its own constituencies remains limited and its relations with Jordan remain tense. The remaining question is whether extremism would become the sole beneficiary of all that is taking place on Palestinian lands.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

THE JORDANIAN-Israeli peace treaty, to be signed Wednesday, has no doubt safeguarded the rights of the two states and put an end to a prolonged period of struggle, said Al Ra'i daily Monday. The treaty has blown away the traditional Zionist dogma that Jordan was a natural extension of the Jewish state, which had motivated Israeli acts of aggression in the past decades, said the daily. Peace with Israel, as His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan said, means an end to an old Zionist idea of considering Jordan as a substitute state for the Palestinians, whose lands were usurped through the Balfour Declaration, added the daily. This treaty, according to the paper, represents a victory for the principles of the Great Arab Revolt under the Hashemite leadership, which has been striving for achieving a better future for the Arab people.

A COLUMNIST in Al Dustour demanded that the government examine the question of disruption in water supplies in Amman and to take action against those officials who, he said, were responsible for the delay in overcoming the difficulties that prevented the resumption of the water distribution programme two weeks after the blockage in the King Abdullah Canal. The floods in the Jordan Valley were blamed for the blockage of the canal, whose water became momentarily muddy, but that two weeks should elapse since then without speedy action to deal with the situation is something that should not be condoned or forgiven, said Mohammad Daoud. The government is to blame for leaving matters in the hands of the Water Authority, which proved impotent in handling such situation and is to blame for forcing people to resort to water trucks, buying water for high prices, he added. The writer urged the government to hold investigations into the case and take measures to prevent a recurrence.

The eviction of Jerusalem's Palestinians

By Anne Kindrachuk and Jan Abu Shakrah

THE RELIGIOUS and political symbolism surrounding Jerusalem tends to overshadow the fact that Palestinians, as a result of Israeli practices — expropriation of Palestinian land, demolition of their homes, restrictive licensing policies, and methods aimed at maintaining a Jewish majority (there are already 160,000 Jews to 155,000 Arabs in East Jerusalem) — are being forcibly evicted from their homes in East Jerusalem. Since 1967 alone, an estimated 50,000 Jerusalem Palestinians have been driven outside the municipal boundaries or outside the country.

Today an estimated 21,000 Palestinian families are homeless or inadequately housed in East Jerusalem (based on a study commissioned by the Jerusalem Municipality). These people would build on land which they own, were these lands legally zoned for housing. But the government of Israel, through the

sophisticated use of legal planning procedures, has prevented Palestinians from using 86 per cent of the land in East Jerusalem, leaving 14 per cent for Palestinian development, and much of this land has already been built up. Many families are forced to live in tents, buses or caves, lacking running water, sewage facilities and electricity, or doubled up with other families in overcrowded, unsafe and unhealthy conditions.

Israeli policies prevent or discourage Palestinians from building on land available to them through discriminatory housing policies, zoning practices and house demolition orders used as punitive and deterrent measures. Government policies favour Israeli settlers in East Jerusalem who reside in Jewish-only residential settlements, built on land expropriated from Palestinians and often in close proximity to Palestinian dwellings, sometimes within a few metres. Buildings in these Jewish neighbourhoods are allowed to be eight storeys high whereas building height in Palesti-

nian neighbourhoods may not exceed two storeys. Moreover, Jerusalem's Palestinian population pays 26 per cent of the total cost of municipal services, a service and municipal property tax known as the arnona, but receives a mere 5 per cent of these services. Evidence of this inconsistency is the absence of sewage facilities in 40 per cent of the Palestinian homes in Jerusalem.

The Israeli government exercises a grossly imbalanced policy of providing subsidised housing — 70,000 Jewish families in East Jerusalem settlements have benefited in contrast to subsidised housing for only 555 Palestinian families. Due to the lack of zoning or the zoning of available land as a "green area", building permits in East Jerusalem are almost impossible to obtain. Any family that builds a home without a permit is subject to house demolition, although only a portion of these are actually demolished. The latest figures indicate that since mid-1987, 222 Palestinian homes

have been demolished in East Jerusalem. Currently, the process has accelerated as demolitions of Palestinian homes in East Jerusalem are carried out at a rate of about 50 a year.

The Israeli authorities often demolish one or two homes in a village in order to deter people from building without a licence. In the case of Adnan Abu Nijma, in the Wadi Qaddum area of southwestern Jerusalem, this means that he, his wife and 13 children have been forced to live in two shipping containers on the site of their demolished home for the last ten months.

In Wadi Qaddum there are approximately ten other houses under threat of demolition. This area is inhabited by Palestinian families from the Maghrebi Quarter in the Old City, where hundreds of Palestinian homes were demolished in 1967 and the residents evicted to facilitate the construction of an expanded Jewish Quarter and a plaza in front of the Wailing Wall. Twenty-seven years later, these people face expulsion once again through a bureaucra-

tic procedure unlikely to attract international attention.

To the north, south and east of Jerusalem, the Israeli government continues to support the massive expansion of illegal Jewish settlements which will probably be accompanied by the expansion of Jerusalem municipal boundaries to achieve "Greater Jerusalem" and Israel's demographic objective of a 78:22 Jewish-Arab ratio for the city. Despite the "settlement freeze", the Jerusalem Municipality's yearly report of projects indicates that 31,413 new housing units for Jewish residents are planned in East Jerusalem, and an additional 4,000 units will possibly be added to existing buildings, with no plan for solving the housing crisis faced by the city's Palestinian families.

The authors work at the Palestine Human Rights Information Centre in East Jerusalem. The article is reprinted from Middle East International.

Peace gathers pace

By Jonathan Wright
Reuter

CAIRO — The walls are tumbling faster and faster in the Middle East as peace-making sweeps along but the most obstinate Arab and Israeli factions.

Jordan and Israel initiated a peace treaty on Monday and Israeli-Palestinian talks resumed in Cairo on Tuesday in an atmosphere much improved now that the crisis over the kidnapping of an Israeli soldier last week is over.

All eyes are now on Syria, the only major Arab power not to have some form of agreement with the Jewish state.

Syrian president Hafez Al Assad was coming to Cairo on Tuesday amid reports of movement after three years of deadlock over the future of the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa, speaking on Monday evening, said: "I can also report to you progress on the Syrian-Israeli track. The general framework has become much more conducive to more successful negotiations."

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher also spoke of steady progress after his attempt last week to narrow the gap between Syria and Israel over the phasing of Israeli withdrawal from the Golan and of starting peaceful relations.

If and when the United States and other mediators do complete the Syrian-Israeli jigsaw, the forces in favour of peace will greatly outweigh those opposed.

On the Arab side, only the Muslim fundamentalist movement, Hamas in Gaza and the West Bank and an alliance of radical Palestinian factions based in Damascus, plus a few peripheral states such as Libya and Sudan, would then stand out against territorial compromise with the Jewish state. (Islamist and some pan-Arabist movements in other Arab countries will also oppose peace with Israel.)

What has changed since is that many psychological barriers have fallen, making it easier and easier to overcome the setbacks that inevitably crop up along the way.

Unilateral steps by Arab states have also undermined the united front they presented in Madrid, adding to the pressures on those lagging behind to catch up with the others.

"The momentum for peace is overwhelming. Even in the case of Syria, it can surely be just a question of time," said one diplomat based in Damascus.

Throughout the past year and more, newspapers and politicians in many Arab states have given the public a large dose of speculation looking ahead to a Middle East in which dealings with Israel are no longer taboo.

This has helped raise expectations in the Arab World that peace means prosperity and possibly political change, after decades in which governments spent heavily on defence and demanded political obedience from their subjects.

Outsiders have contributed to the climate of anticipation through their visions of an integrated Middle East market.

"As seen from Brussels, the prospects of economic development in the Eastern Mediterranean have never been brighter than today," said Eberhard Rhein, European Commission director for the Mediterranean and the Middle East.

The international business community sees new scope for projects in areas such as tourism, manufacturing, infrastructure and housing, Mr. Rhein told a conference in Athens.

A landmark on the economic front will be a conference opening in the Moroccan city of Casablanca on Oct. 30, bringing together political and business leaders from the Middle East and Far East, Europe and the United States.

Hard talks await Britain, Sinn Fein

By Andrew Hill
Reuter

DUBLIN — Britain's decision to open preliminary talks with Sinn Fein ends a 25-year ban and heralds intricate negotiations between the London government and a party committed to dismantling part of the United Kingdom.

Officials close to the Anglo-Irish peace drive for Northern Ireland said Prime Minister John Major's Belfast announcement was a milestone on the road to peace, but they foresaw difficult talks in coming months.

Mr. Major's announcement that he would open talks with Sinn Fein, the Irish Republican Army's (IRA) political wing, by the year's end was seen by Irish officials as official recognition of an organisation which Britain has refused to acknowledge for 25 years.

The British leader once said talks with Sinn Fein would turn his stomach so long as violence by its military backers in the IRA continued. But he said on Friday he was ready to make a "working assumption" that the IRA Sept. 1 ceasefire was intended to be permanent.

Sinn Fein President Gerry Adams was expected to use the recognition to press for an early withdrawal to barracks of the 18,000 troops brought in to end the Irish Republican Army guerrilla campaign against British rule of the province.

But officials involved in the Anglo-Irish peace process said Britain would continue to hold Sinn Fein at arm's length until it had made some progress towards seizing some of the estimated 300 tonnes of arms and explosives the IRA has stockpiled in Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic.

Mr. Major said in his Belfast speech that peace could only be assured when the guns had been handed in — something both sets of guerrillas in Northern Ireland have hitherto refused to even mention.

Officials said London was likely to confine early contacts with Sinn Fein to senior civil servant level and said a long awaited handshake between Mr. Major and Mr. Adams was unlikely until some time in the first half of next year.

Sinn Fein was expected to voice public impatience at the cautious opening by Britain because it had already been involved in secret contacts about an IRA ceasefire with the government for more than a year.

Britain was forced by newspaper leaks to admit that it had had the contacts and Sinn Fein has complained ever since that it was made promises in private which have never been made public.

Sinn Fein sources said they were told by a senior

British civil servant that the London government favoured a withdrawal from Northern Ireland altogether — something Britain has consistently denied saying. Britain would also have to balance its desire to bring Sinn Fein in from the political cold with its need to reassure Protestant Unionist parties in Northern Ireland, which are committed to keeping the province British.

Traditionally the Unionist Parties support the Conservative government and Mr. Major might need their support to head off an opposition Labour Party growing in confidence under new leader Tony Blair, the officials said.

A major concern of British security officials is the amount of semtex explosive the IRA holds and which it has used with devastating effect in its 25-year war against British troops.

The Czech-made plastic explosive nearly killed Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and her entire cabinet when the IRA planted a bomb at the Brighton Hotel in which the Conservative Party was gathered for its annual conference in 1984.

It was also used in the bombing of the London financial district in 1992 which is widely thought to have galvanised Britain into seeking a political settlement for Northern Ireland in partnership with the Dublin government.

The decision to recognise Sinn Fein climaxed a year-long peace drive by the British and Irish governments who set out to lure Sinn Fein to the conference table with their Dec. 15 Downing Street Declaration blueprint for Northern Ireland peace. The first fruits of the initiative came when the IRA announced a ceasefire.

The document promised outlawed parties such as Sinn Fein, as well as organisations on the Protestant pro-British side of Northern Ireland's sectarian divide, a place at peace talks if violence ended for good.

London's decision to open the door to Sinn Fein was seen in Dublin as a victory for Mr. Adams, who has struggled for years to get his organisation in from the cold and away from its associations with IRA violence.

It also relieves pressure on Mr. Adams from hard-line IRA militants who fear that they have gained nothing since the Sept. 1 truce and want quick concessions from London to reward their dramatic initiative.

It would remove a minor strain in Anglo-Irish relations because the Dublin government, which recognised Sinn Fein one week after the IRA ceasefire, was worried that the peace drive was running out of steam because of Britain's cautious approach.

M. KAHIL



Only Arab League has legal right to end boycott against Israel

By Pascal B. Karmy

THE ARAB boycott of Israel was initiated by the Arab League in the aftermath of the Arab-Israeli war in 1948, which resulted in the brutal expulsion by the Israelis of about 750,000 Palestinians from their homes. The Arab League also created the Arab boycott of Israel Office as a subsidiary organ of the League. Its headquarters seat was officially established in Damascus.

At the outset of the establishment of the Arab boycott of Israel, it was alleged by the latter that the boycott would be detrimental to the Arab states rather than to Israel. It was further claimed that Israeli goods were being exported to the Arab states clandestinely or indirectly under false certificates of origin. If these claims were true why have the U.S. administration and American Jews been making every conceivable effort to end the boycott? Why has the U.S. passed laws punishing American companies or citizens that comply with the Arab boycott rules? Why, then, did the U.S. not spare any opportunity to bring pressure to bear upon the Arab states to lift the boycott?

It must be admitted, however, that the effect of the boycott was often erratic and not constant, although the direct boycott of Israel itself was fairly successful.

Unfortunately, the American pressures, and I might say harassments against the Arab Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, have brought fruit now by lifting the secondary boycott but have not so far lifted the direct boycott of Israel. In other words, the GCC lifted the boycott against foreign companies or individuals dealing or investing in Israel.

It must be stressed that inasmuch as the Arab boycott of Israel was established by all the members of the Arab League, it can be lifted legally only by a

decision of the League itself. Consequently, the lifting of the boycott by the GCC is illegal. The GCC should have submitted the matter to the Arab League Council for taking the appropriate measures, taking into consideration the interest of the Arab states, especially those negotiating with Israel. One may expect that the League Council might by a majority (or unanimously as required by the Arab League Charter) decide to lift the secondary boycott of Israel but in return for some concessions on the part of Israel to enhance the peace process.

But the bitter fact is that normalisation between Israel and some Arab states is making great strides out of proportion to the meager political achievements reached in the current negotiations between Israel on the one side and the Palestinians and the concerned Arab states on the other. With regard to the Palestinians, Israel is still dilly-dallying in recognising the full rights of the Palestinians and is, moreover, creating obstacles at every turn of the negotiations and is still not conceding that the Palestinian territory of the Gaza Strip and the West Bank is a Palestinian territory occupied by it in 1967.

One may reasonably ask what is the quid pro quo for the action of the GCC. Have they or the other Arab states gained anything concrete in return. Moreover, the lifting of the boycott in the present circumstances is inopportune and untimely. It was taken at a time when the Palestinians have not yet attained their national goals and Israel is still building or fattening Jewish settlements in or around Jerusalem.

It must also be remembered that Syria, whose talks with Israel have yet to show real progress, was an ally of the GCC during the Gulf war against Iraq.

It would, therefore, be expected that the GCC, especially Kuwait, would not take such unwarranted action which will adversely

affect the negotiating position of Syria and Lebanon vis-a-vis Israel. Is this the reward granted by the GCC to Syria? Perhaps I am too naive to believe that there are ethics in diplomacy.

Indeed, if the Arab states lift all kinds of boycott (i.e. the primary and secondary) Israel would not care less to conclude peace with the Arab states. Is it not a wise policy, therefore, to keep some assets in the balance of the Arab states, such as the boycott of Israel among others, when in two years' time the Palestinians will have to grapple with Israel (according to the Oslo accord of 1993) about the status of Jerusalem, the Jewish settlements, the refugees and the borders? In the interest of all Arab states not one of them should take any unilateral action which is likely to endanger the negotiating position of Syria and Lebanon, although coordination is regrettably sorely lacking.

I wish to conclude by two relevant statements made by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan. The first was made when he met President Bill Clinton and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres at the White House on Oct. 1, 1993 and stated the following: "It would be economic suicide for the Arabs to lift the boycott without gaining anything in return. To those who said the boycott is economic warfare, I would say removing the boycott is economic suicide."

Again His Prince Hassan said the following in his speech delivered on October 26, 1993 at the Arab Thought Forum "The Arab boycott of Israel has always been linked to the Middle East conflict and after the conflict has been settled the boycott rules will be dealt with accordingly."

The writer is a former legal adviser at UNRWA. He contributed this article to the Jordan Times.

King warns against anti-peace efforts

(Continued from page 1)

And everything was destroyed and I did not believe that there were any one in our ranks who would have a role in all that at such situation... and we later discovered that some amongst us had worked to reach that end.

"Again I do not generalise but specify... their links, whether in terms of financing, arming or planning, are with a sister country..."

"There was another explosion in 1990 and their position was against the public stand in this country when we stood unified to prevent the ensuing disasters. Some were in the opposing side and when they found that the general position was supporting the interests of the nation, so they changed their position swiftly..."

"And now some are using the same pan-Arabist language as in the 1950s, and before and after, and before that some criticised Al Hussein Ben Ali and the Great Arab Revolt when the nation's language, and the language of the Holy Koran, was threatened."

"Concerning Palestine, there is no other Arab country that offered Palestine what we did and this is a duty and honour... we did not give up Palestine and the Arab right in this part of the great Arab homeland, but the party responsible for representing the Palestinians... have shouldered their responsibilities and moved and consequently we had to care for ourselves and deal with the situation."

"Ingratitude and disavowal were not stemming from the people; they are our family and relatives, and we will continue to support them within our utmost capabilities and hope that God grant them luck in pursuing their rights."

"We are defending our symbolic right in Jerusalem in the name of the Islamic Nation and we will not relin-

quish this trust now. When the people regain their rights on their national soil and Jerusalem this will still be open and, God willing, this will happen in the future, and this is now a trust and a responsibility that we cannot leave in the face of the unknown."

"Of the facets of ingratitude, and I do not know how many of you know that the piece of marble that carried the date of the third Hashemite reconstruction (of the Dome of the Rock mosque in Jerusalem) was damaged within less than 24 hours after it was erected. It is still damaged till now. Still we will not shirk our duties and our role on behalf of the Islamic Nation, on the way to have Jerusalem, God willing, in terms of the holy places above the issue of sovereignty for any party, sovereignty is for God and it (Jerusalem) will become a symbol of peace."

"In 1970... there was no problem between us and our brothers. The same party responsible for the 1970 incidents is the same responsible for the destruction of Lebanon, is the same party responsible for much, much of what is happening to the nation till now and to Palestine, which was supposed to be above all disputes and trends, unifying all hearts in the Arab and Islamic World."

"These days, there were some saying they do not recognise the state and our (leadership). We told them if we assume that there is no state and we were back to our tribes, my tribe is the biggest, and that is the overwhelming majority of the people and my organisation is the largest in the country, and if you want to push things to limit, we will deal with this issue."

"I am not alone, and my power is emanating from you and from our relationship which has every meaning in my life."

"In the future if we manage to resolve all our issues

and regain our rights, this will give us the chance to start anew, to be an example for the whole Arab World."

"We reiterate that we are the example, a strong tribe in the face of any side attempting to reach goals and through exploiting us."

The King expressed pride in the Armed Forces and the loyalty and sincerity of its personnel, "which enabled us to counter all challenges."

"It is often said that my visits boost the morale of the young people (in the Armed Forces), but truly my morale is boosted when I hear about their good performance."

He said that had it not been for the Jordanian Armed Forces in 1948, the question of Jerusalem would not have existed. In the 1967 war, he said, the Jordanian army kept fighting the Israelis until he received calls by the citizens of Jerusalem to stop the war to protect the Holy City.

He underlined that Jordan started the journey towards peace after a general meeting of representatives of the Jordanian people, and that it went to the Madrid conference in 1991 along with the concerned Arab parties and it had continued to coordinate with the other Arab parties. But he said Jordan was surprised by the Palestinian-Israeli Oslo agreement and added that Jordan was prompted to sign the agenda of its negotiations with Israel after that.

He stressed that Jordan would continue to seek a comprehensive solution which he said he hoped it will be the final result of the peace process.

He recalled the tumultuous welcome he received upon his return home after undergoing an operation in the U.S. two years ago. "This reception made me feel indebted towards family and to perform my duty for a better future for the coming generations," he said.

Has the mystery of green campaigner Petra Kelly's death finally been solved in a new book by fellow activist Sara Parkin? John Vidal reports

THE END was as grotesque as it was inexplicable. On Oct. 1, 1992, Petra Kelly, one of the world's pioneering feminists, a leading green, human rights and environmental politician, was sleeping. Gert Bastian, the elderly former NATO general on whom she had come to depend utterly and who, in turn, loved her deeply, rummaged in a drawer for his Derringer, went into the bedroom, put the gun to her temple and pulled the trigger. Embracing her, he then shot himself.

It was one of the most dramatic political murders of the decade, yet it was widely portrayed, even by the German police — who should have known better from the evidence — as a double suicide.

And then, from those who thought they knew her, came the questions and the guilt: how could someone wedded to peace live with guns in her home, even her car? How could Kelly's life have become so entwined with an old, married man who had given most of his life to war? What was their real relationship?

Sara Parkin, former nurse, British Green party principal speaker and chair, has spent a year unravelling the life and death of the firebrand she first met in 1978. Her qualifications to write Petra's "story" — not biography, she insists — were impeccable. She had the trust of the green movement, knew Kelly's friends and colleagues, and she had known Kelly longer and perhaps better than most.

The pair had "bonded literally and immediately from the start," she says, and through the best and worst of times — which saw Kelly storm the German Bundestag, Parkin become a British public figure and both women ostracised by vicious internal fighting in their respective political parties — they remained in intimate contact. Parkin, the young, deeply stable Scottish political activist, became one of Kelly's "second division" confidantes, part of her network of activist women who saw each other only occasionally, yet who communicated constantly. They would speak for hours on the telephone, and respected each other deeply, Parkin recalls.

Parkin, like so many

others, had been bowled over by Kelly's charisma. Here was a woman her own age who had lived through the Martin Luther King years and full-blown American sixties' radicalism, worked at the European Commission, was a true internationalist and a passionate feminist intellectual. Kelly had worked closely with Hubert Humphrey in the 1968 U.S. elections and had been in Prague when the Soviet tanks came in. "Her life gave me courage. She was a role model," says Parkin.

If Kelly was the star, Parkin was an asteroid, but there were strong parallels between them. "We both saw all the connections between human rights, liberty and the environment," she says. And both suffered the frustrations of working in the naive and lacerating world of national green politics.

Writing her story was Parkin's way of putting the record straight before myths set in. But the more she dug, the more surprising Kelly's life became and the more the book became a psychological thriller.

"I was shocked by the extent of Petra's anxiety," Parkin says, "and how much she was handicapped by dependency. I knew she would get anxious and took every attack on her very badly. What I didn't know was how vulnerable she was, how much she needed emotional and even physical support and protection."

Kelly was a classic victim of separation, Parkin believes. Her father left the family when she was three. Aged 11, she was taken from a Germany trying to forget its past to live in America; she was separated from her beloved grandmother, her half-sister died young of cancer, she stayed in America when her family moved back to Germany; when she returned to Germany, aged 23, they left again for America and they would never again live in the same continent.

Parkin, RSN, who had seen the personal hell of clinical anxiety in her hospital days, found that Kelly had been seriously ill for years, with few people knowing. "It was the flip side of her obsessiveness, passion and honesty that made her so powerful on a political platform," she says.

Enter the "hero," Gert Bastian. The NATO general



Petra Kelly

who resigned in 1980, aged 57, on principle at the decision to put first strike nuclear weapons on German soil, became an instant hero of the German peace movement and a big fish for Die Grünen (the German Green party) to catch. Politically unsophisticated, he had been persuaded to run for parliament as a green. In March 1983, he and Kelly entered the Bundestag together, the world's first national green politicians.

"She thought he needed a stiff tutorial in feminism and non-violence but she was intrigued. He was someone, like her, who had matched his personal actions to his beliefs. Petra's politics — she could not separate the public and personal — hit him like a steam train," says Parkin.

The combination of principled, protective elder man and intense, vulnerable woman was extraordinarily powerful. To start with they led independent lives. Eventually he resigned from Die Grünen better to help her. Soon the two became inseparable and were known as "Petra and Gert."

As Kelly waged a ferocious, debilitating individual war with Die Grünen, and the demands of international celebrity grew, so her dependence on Bastian became total. By the mid-1980s, her lowest ebb, she was working obsessively for her many causes, overwhelmed by anxiety and collapsing before meetings, "to the point where she could hardly get out of bed," Parkin says.

Although Parkin was given full access to Die Grünen's archives, met her family, and talked to a host of people about Kelly, "still nothing added up," why should Bastian kill the woman he was so devoted to? Both had said they could not live without

each other. Kelly's friends, while wary of him, accepted him. Everyone said they were happy together and appreciated that she needed him deeply.

She had come through the worst of her wars with the party, and by the late 1980s there was more balance to her life. "It may have been a weird relationship," says Parkin, "but it was understandable."



Sara Parkin

Or was it? Parkin says she was driven to the history books to get to know Bastian better. It was known he had been active in the Hitler Youth, an ambitious, competent, even brave soldier who had spent part of his war on the Russian front. "But he always claimed, rather glibly, that he never knew about the Jews and the atrocities," Parkin says. Then communism fell and the Stasi (former East German state security service) files were uncovered.

Were there dark secrets there? Had Gert been compromised by the war? Had he lied, even been working with the Stasi before his defection from NATO? It may never be known, says Parkin, "but how could a senior German officer not have known what was going on? The public prosecutor's office said that there was nothing in Gert's

file that 'could be relevant to their deaths', but it was only one particular file. The Stasi used extensive cross-referencing. It remains highly likely that Bastian received briefings from, or exchanged with the Stasi. It was only a matter of time before the full files were opened."

"It was in the Stasi files," Parkin adds. "The likelihood of a NATO general not being there was zilch."

Parkin has good reason to believe that Bastian knew his life with Petra Kelly was almost over. "He knew the final, intolerable shame of those hidden years would disgust Petra totally," she says. "The slightest whiff of a past connection would mean that not only was his life with Petra over, but also every scrap of honour from his principled stand would be wiped out. It would destroy Bastian's world," she surmises. "The human level mattered immensely to Petra. Loyalty mattered enormously. It would be betrayal."

The murder, Parkin concludes, was Bastian's only way out. Only in death, she says, would the files go to his wife Lotte, whom he knew would protect him and to whom he had given up to £100,000 of Kelly's money.

But was politics the other culprit in the tragedy? Clearly the German greens didn't know how to handle Kelly. Where they were parochial, she was international, where they were German, she was in effect half American, and where she was a megastar, they mistrusted leadership. "They hacked her down," says Parkin. It might even be argued that they played a part in creating Kelly's dependence on Bastian. "Only in her death did they come to understand her power," *The Guardian Weekly*

Clinton dampens hopes

(Continued from page 1)

The minister, ringed by Bahraini officials and security agents in his hotel, did not think that President Clinton's visit to the Middle East will bring a breakthrough in Israel's stalled negotiations with Syria.

"It's too early," said Mr. Sarid. "President Clinton is of course very, very helpful." Another Israeli official said President Clinton's visit to Damascus is expected to spur progress on negotiating a time frame for an Israeli withdrawal on the Golan Heights.

Itamar Rabinovich, Israel's ambassador to Washington and the chief negotiator with Syria, said Mr. Clinton's visit gave President Assad an opportunity to make a gesture towards Israel.

Israel has offered a partial and phased withdrawal spread over five years. Damascus wants it done in one year.

"From our point of view, this period is too short. We want to extend it, and it could be that one of the areas in which there might be movement is this point," Mr. Rabinovich said.

"But I don't expect Assad to immediately double or triple the time period. This is not his style."

Syria pledged Monday it will make "all-out efforts" to achieve peace.

But it stressed that there can be no peace until Israel makes a commitment to a complete withdrawal from occupied Arab land.

"Syria, as ever, is a serious and strong peace advocate and will continue to exert all-out efforts aimed at realising peace based on justice, comprehensiveness and dignity," the English-language Syria Times daily said.

Syria is "committed to basic peace principles and reiterates her full adherence to the prestigious U.S. peace initiative," the state-run newspaper said in an editorial.

Israel, PLO try to plug gaps

(Continued from page 1)

invited Norway, Turkey, Finland, Canada and Australia and two European states to be chosen by the European Union to take part in the TIP, to monitor the application of the autonomy.

The negotiations on the autonomy council opened here October 3. The talks resumed Monday afternoon and will end Tuesday, according to the participants.

Dr. Erekat said that Sunday's meeting between Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and a Palestinian delegation led by Nabil Shaath, had not been successful and Israel had misinterpreted the result.

He denied remarks made by Mr. Peres on Monday that Israel and the Palestinian National Authority had agreed on ways to fight Palestinian terror groups.

"We did not agree, as they said, on fighting anybody. We agreed that the cycle of violence and counter-violence from whoever it came harms the peace process. Peres was voicing his personal opinion," Dr. Erekat said.

Dr. Erekat said the authority told Israel that sealing the areas would have an "economic and political connotation. Israel cannot treat self-rule areas as places it can seal off anytime it wishes, as if they are still under occupation."

"Israeli troops are killing Palestinians in the streets, imposing curfews, preventing workers from going to their jobs to earn their livelihood

and do they expect people to throw roses on them? We told them that violence breeds violence," he said.

"Peres said: 'The parties (agreed they) are going to fight terror which is endangering peace. We've asked the Palestinians to fight terror and they said they are determined to do so.'"

Dr. Erekat said that Israel was violating the PLO-Israeli peace accord signed in May by not freeing Palestinian prisoners. Israel has freed 5,000 but not the others.

He added: "Hamas and everybody else must be freed. We want to open a new page to show people that we are talking about true and genuine peace and not the peace that is trying to tailor the needs of Israel."

Because of Israel's policy of separation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip from Israel, the Palestinians proposed to Israel that the two sides move to final status talks to end the occupation and set up an independent Palestinian state, he said.

Israel rejected the proposal, he added.

Permanent status talks for an independent Palestinian entity and to discuss Arab East Jerusalem are due to begin in 1996.

Dr. Erekat said Israel refused to set up working groups to negotiate redeployment of Israeli troops from the West Bank, review military laws and transfer of remaining authorities as stipulated in the peace accord in parallel to election talks.

Baghdad assails U.S., U.K.

(Continued from page 1)

mass destruction. Uday, who publishes Iraq's most influential and popular newspaper, Babel, suggested Sunday night that Iraqi foreign policy, now in the hands of Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz, be placed under President Saddam's direct control.

"The diplomatic work should be administered directly by the way the internal situation in Iraq is being run since the president directly took over the cabinet," Uday said in a televised seminar on Shebab (Youth) Television, a channel he runs.

He urged the Baghdad government to change course on foreign policy matters following the latest crisis in the Gulf.

President Saddam took charge of the Iraqi

cabinet in May after an economic crisis in which prices soared and the Iraqi dinar tumbled to its lowest rate against the dollar.

"Our diplomacy has remained in a whirlpool... we go to New York and come back with nothing new," he said. Mr. Aziz's repeated trips to New York to lobby for an easing of U.N. sanctions imposed after Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

He said the U.N. Special Commission disarming Iraq under the 1991 Gulf war ceasefire terms outwitted Iraqi diplomats when it persuaded them to hand over its chemical weapons and missiles "and we have gained nothing in return."

But he said Iraq was determined not to let that happen again.

Hamas seeks protection

(Continued from page 1)

most of those rounded up in the arrest sweep were lower-level Hamas members, including those belonging to Hamas' military wing, Izzedine Al Qassam.

Under orders from Mr. Rabin, Hamas' top military leaders are to be killed on sight, according to government and security officials. The order reportedly relayed to the Mossad intelligence service included targets overseas.

In a leaflet faxed to news organisations Monday, Hamas vowed to retaliate. "Rabin must know that Hamas loves death more than Rabin and his soldiers love life. Rabin must know that his orders to the Mossad to assassinate Hamas leaders will not frighten us. Rabin's threats will only push us into continuing our resistance and struggle," the leaflet said.

"Hamas will not hesitate to retaliate severely against any attempt to harm our leaders."

In northern Israel, police set up surprise roadblocks in their hunt for a wanted Hamas member, Yehia Ayash, who is believed to be the mastermind of the bus bombing and several other suicide bomb attacks, the Maariv daily reported Monday.

Ayash, nicknamed "the engineer" because of his expertise in rigging explosives, has been on the run for two years.

Jordan Times
Tel: 667171

Now to make the Korean accord stick

By Selig S. Harrison

WASHINGTON — In bringing North Korea's nuclear programme to a halt, the Clinton administration has achieved a diplomatic triumph.

The freeze agreement signed Friday in Geneva has strong verification safeguards and deserves full support. But to make it stick, the administration will have to normalise economic and political relations with the North and rein in hawks in Seoul who want to encourage the collapse of the regime in Pyongyang.

The agreement has two weaknesses. First, it envisions complex arrangements that depend largely for their success on South Korea's goodwill towards the North.

Yet Seoul, emboldened by the death of Kim Il Sung in July, hopes for the downfall of his son and successor, Kim Jong Il.

Second, while assuming responsibility for the agreement, the United States expects other countries to cover most of the costs, and thus may be unable to assure that it is successfully carried out.

Before Kim Il died, South Korea denied North Korean charges that it wanted to absorb the North. But in a speech on Aug. 15, President Kim Young Sam declared that a unified Korea would be "another Republic of Korea," signaling that he envisioned unification-by-absorption.

Today, Seoul's powerful intelligence agencies argue that Kim Jong Il's days are

numbered. Kim Young Sam reflected this assessment when he told the New York Times on Oct. 7 that the regime is on the verge of an economic and political crisis that could sweep it from power and that U.S. compromises in the nuclear negotiations might prolong its life.

As a result of four visits to the North, most recently in June, I believe that North Korea's political structure is solid enough to withstand the readjustments now taking place. The ruling Workers' Party is strongly entrenched and Kim Il Sung's nationalist mystique is likely to endure for years.

It is wishful thinking to expect a collapse. A more likely outcome is a gradual liberalisation, starting with more open foreign economic policies, similar to China.

The North wants a loose confederation on terms of equality with the South that leads to an orderly negotiated unification. For the United States, Japan and South Korea, this would be far better than an economic and political breakdown in Pyongyang that led to large-scale flows of refugees, heavy reconstruction costs and possibly military strife.

The United States should reinforce the nuclear agreement by moving towards full normalisation of relations instead of stretching out the process over years, as contemplated. This would strengthen Kim Jong Il and the moderates in his inner circle and help to neutralise pro-nuclear hawks in Pyongyang.

To appease his own domestic hardliners, Kim Young Sam is pressing the United States to slow the establishment of liaison offices in Pyongyang and Washington, which is part of the agreement, and to condition further U.S. moves towards normalisation on North Korean compliance with the South's terms for North-South dialogue.

While consulting with Seoul, the United States should chart its own course in dealing with Pyongyang. America's alliance with the South was a response to Soviet and Chinese military ties with the North, but now Moscow and Beijing have closer relations with Seoul than with Pyongyang.

The United States should disentangle itself from the interlocking Korean conflict and shape a new policy designed to build good relations with the people of the peninsula as a whole. During this transition, the mutual security agreement with Seoul should be honoured indefinitely, backed by air and sea power as well as some ground forces.

The administration has assigned a central role to South Korea in a projected multinational consortium that is to supply Pyongyang with light-water reactors, which produce a grade of plutonium less suited to weapons than the North's existing reactors.

This sounds like a promising way to facilitate North-South cooperation, but it may never come to pass because the North fears, understandably, that Seoul will seek to use the project

as a political weapon.

A more stable way to fulfill the commitment would be to build the consortium around China, with South Korea and Japan in secondary financing roles.

Beijing could be induced to put up the biggest share of the money if Washington agreed to lift its ban on the sale of U.S. light-water reactors to China for its own energy programme. It would be politically indefensible for the United States to provide reactors to North Korea while denying them to China.

Congress killed a U.S.-China nuclear Beijing for selling missile technology to Pakistan. But since then China has signed the nuclear non-proliferation treaty and has satisfied the United States that it is not transferring proscribed technology to Pakistan. The United States could lead the consortium more effectively if it assumed a share of the \$4 billion financial burden.

President Clinton should ask Congress to back his promising venture in non-proliferation diplomacy by removing legislative restrictions that block aid, trade and investment dealings with the North.

Even if there were no nuclear crisis, it would be in the United States' interest to encourage the forces of moderation and reform in Pyongyang.

The writer is a senior associate at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. He contributed this view to The New York Times.

Impact of closure on Israeli economy seen limited

Australian central bank hikes official interest rate

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel's indefinite closure of the West Bank and Gaza Strip will undoubtedly hurt the Jewish state's economy, but government and industry officials said it was the price that had to be paid for security.

Immediately after last Wednesday's bombing of a Tel Aviv bus, in which an Islamic suicide bomber and 22 people were killed, Israel sealed off the West Bank and Gaza Strip, home to nearly two million Palestinians.

The closure means that Israeli employers lose the labour of tens of thousands of mostly low-paid Palestinian workers who crossed each day into Israel from Gaza and the West Bank.

The construction industry,

which employed 36,000 Palestinians, equal to one-fifth of the sector's work force, will be hardest hit.

Tzvi Friedman, adviser to the president of the Construction Industry Association, said if the closure lasted a long time, the industry could lose as much as \$600 million.

"But the life of a man is more important," he said. "We have no choice."

"There is no such thing as a free lunch and this is the price we have to pay for security," said an official source in occupied Jerusalem, who asked not to be named.

But economists agree that the effect of the closure will be limited as the number of Palestinian workers in Israel

has declined significantly in the past year.

On Sunday, Israel's cabinet approved the import of 19,000 more foreign workers to replace Palestinians.

Some Israeli cabinet ministers voiced concern about the closure. But much of the concern was felt for PLO leader Yasser Arafat's Palestinian National Authority, which runs the Gaza Strip and the West Bank enclave of Jericho under the self-rule accord signed with Israel in May.

"We don't want to slow or harass the economic development of the Palestinian authority," Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres told a news conference in Cairo after talks with the PLO (Palestine Liberation Organisation) Sunday.

This is the second time this year Israel has sealed off Gaza and the West Bank, which Israel controls save for Jericho.

Before the previous ban, 75,000 Palestinians worked in the construction industry. The industry since then has employed 5,000 more Israelis and imported 27,000 workers from abroad, mainly from Thailand, eastern Europe and Portugal.

The agriculture sector employed 30,000 Palestinians before the previous closure. This number has fallen to 15,500, the agriculture ministry said.

"The impact of the closure

at this time will be far less," said Tzippi Gal Yam, economic adviser at the treasury.

Mr. Gal Yam said that despite the cost of bringing in workers from abroad, they tended to be more productive because they lived on site and worked longer hours. Palestinians often missed work because of strikes on brief Israeli closures.

Jonathan Katz, senior economist at the Capital Holdings consulting firm, predicted the closure could reduce growth.

While the government has forecast gross domestic product would grow 4.9 per cent next year, down from 7.0 per cent this year, Mr. Katz said the 1995 figure could be closer to 4.0 per cent.

pointed to fast acceleration in the economy.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics said last week that the value of retail trade rose 2.1 per cent in August following a 2.5 per cent surge in July — the biggest two-month jump in consumer spending since 1969.

The central bank said spending, business investment and the housing sector were all strong and "the economy overall is growing robustly."

The rate hike would avoid overheating of the economy in the future, the bank said, and help to keep underlying inflation at about two-to-three per cent.

Slack in the economy was being wound back, employment was growing very strongly and "pressures on prices and wages can be expected to intensify," it said in a statement.

The Australian economy grew by 4.5 per cent in the year to June, according to latest official data, but analysts forecast it would grow more than 5.0 per cent in the year to September.

The consumer price index measure of inflation rose 1.7 per cent in the year to June.

Michael Gobel, bond dealer with Australian Gilt Securities, said inflation-sensitive 10-year bond future prices surged to 89.955 cents from 89.785 cents immediately before the rate hike, but then eased slightly.

Steve Nitis, chief foreign exchange dealer at Commonwealth Bank of Australia, said the local dollar climbed 50 basis points to 73.71 U.S. cents.

Grant Bailey, chief eco-

nomist at Citibank Australia said: "This move does not slam the brakes down but it is a firm push on the brakes of the economy."

"For the markets, one very substantive building block has been put down on interest rates. The Reserve Bank of Australia has shown it is tough and serious," he added.

Ivana Bottini, chief economist at Societe Generale Australia, said the hike came before any U.S. tightening and Australian inflation data due Wednesday, suggesting the bank "is taking a proactive policy stance in its attempt to retain domestic demand."

"Today's increase in official interest rates is encouraging and augurs well for the outlook for inflation," said a report by Schroders Australia.

"However, the degree of strength in the economy, a surprise to most forecasters, and intensifying pressures on prices and wages will necessitate progressive tightening of monetary policy across 1995," it said.

Analysts said the rate hike could be a central bank signal to the government that it has been serious in calling for faster reduction of the budget deficit.

"Further recalcitrance by Canberra over this issue is therefore likely to be met by further tightening on the high side," said Mr. Bailey.

The government of Prime Minister Paul Keating has forecast a budget deficit of 11.7 billion Australian dollars (\$8.6 billion) in the year to June 1995, falling to \$4.5 billion by 1996-97.

Clinton says U.S. budget deficit narrowed to \$203b

CLEVELAND, Ohio (AFP) — On a campaign swing through Ohio, President Bill Clinton announced Monday that the U.S. budget deficit had shrunk to \$203 billion for the 1994 fiscal year which ended on Sept. 30.

"We've done it by cutting the size of government, by eliminating government programmes, by cutting others while still being able to increase our investment in education and training and new technology," the president said in a radio interview.

Mr. Clinton said the budget gap had been more than \$290 billion for the 1992 fiscal year. The U.S. administration had predicted a deficit of \$220.1 billion for the

1994 fiscal year, compared to \$254.7 billion in 1993.

The president has predicted that the fiscal 1995 deficit would be lower still, which he said would be the first three-year string of deficit cuts since President Harry Truman (1945-1953).

President Clinton denied Sunday that his budget office was proposing steep cuts in health and welfare benefits after a leaked memo threatened to embarrass him ahead of the midterm elections.

"I do not support cuts in Social Security," he told reporters in Seattle, where he was campaigning for fellow Democrats ahead of the Nov. 8 vote.

The Washington Post published a report on the Oct. 3 memo from Budget Director Alice Rivlin that listed tax increases and social spending cuts for the next two years.

But the White House scrambled to control the potential political fallout from the report, which Republicans charge runs counter to Democrats' claims that they alone can safeguard Americans' health and welfare benefits.

"There is nothing in that memo and nothing on the record that would indicate I have changed my position on those two fundamental issues," he said.

Mr. Clinton said that the

memo was merely a "list of options" and that none was currently being considered by the White House.

The administration's quick response underscores the affair's potential damage in the remaining days before the elections, which has Mr. Clinton touring the West this weekend, campaigning for embattled Democrats.

Schmidt: Russia will need 50 years to return to world power status

MANILA (AFP) — Russia will need about 50 years to reestablish itself as a world power, former West German chancellor Helmut Schmidt said in a speech here Monday.

"It may take half a century before Russia consolidates itself politically or economically," he said, adding that there may be two or three pushovers or attempts on power during that period.

But, eventually, Russia will join the United States, China, Japan and the European Union (EU) as among the world powers of the next century, he predicted.

Mr. Schmidt said that despite the collapse of communism, there was still widespread distrust of market forces among Russian citizens and the bureaucracy, adding that the most "homogenous group in the country" was the military which was "still thinking of restructuring the empire."

He said the immediate beneficiary of Russia's weak-

ness was China, which he predicted would become the world's largest economy, importer and exporter in the next century, although per capita income would still lag far behind other nations.

However, he said that China faced problems of its own such as orderly succession, inflation and inadequate infrastructure.

Mr. Schmidt also said the five world powers would have to guard against the "degeneration of market economies" into speculation, corruption and "man-eating forms of capitalism."

He also warned of resurgent protectionism and called for the ratification of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) to guard against this.

Mr. Schmidt was speaking at a joint meeting of Philippine business organisations.

India says economic crime rising, plans crackdown

NEW DELHI (R) — The Indian government, worried by a steady increase in economic crime, will set up a special federal police unit under the supervision of Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao to combat it, a police spokesman said Monday.

"There has been a marked increase in large-scale economic crimes, chiefly white-collar crime, which we are gearing up to combat fiercely," a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) spokesman told Reuters.

He said the proposed economic offences division of the CBI, to be set in two to three weeks, would tackle bank fraud and other illegal activities, including the large-scale movement of money from abroad through an underground banking system known as "havana."

"Now that the smaller, street-side economic crimes are on the wane because of the economic reforms, we have to focus on the big operators who have increased their activities," the spokes-

man said.

Businessmen say Mr. Rao's three-year-old economic reforms have removed many government controls that helped fuel a parallel economy estimated at 60 per cent of national income.

The recent lifting of a ban on gold and silver imports reduced major smuggling of the metals and hit the havana market, which financed the smugglers.

"While the smuggling-related havana has gone down, large sums of money are still being sent out through the channel," the spokesman said.

Mr. Rao's government has a thin majority in parliament and has survived several close calls over opposition allegations of fraud and corruption.

In a \$1.38 billion financial scandal, stockbrokers and bankers colluded to divert funds from government securities to the then booming Bombay Stock Exchange in 1992.

Bombay broker Harshad Mehta, the main accused in

the scandal, claimed he gave Mr. Rao a suitcase full of \$320,000 worth of Indian currency notes. Mr. Rao strongly denied the allegations.

Politicians said the proposed police unit appeared to be part of Mr. Rao's move to give confidence to foreign investors and spruce up India's international image.

"After the Mehta incident, the government has been keen to get rid of India's image as a nation of wheeler-dealers," said a former minister.

Establishing the police unit is the latest in a series of steps taken by the government to improve business ethics. Among these was a proposal last month by the commerce ministry for a law to jail exporters of shoddy goods.

"Exporters who do not care for quality are tarnishing the image of the country," Commerce Secretary Tejendra Khanna said. "The government will take very stringent action against businessmen who can't keep quality or meet delivery schedules."

Japan's financial institutions unload \$20b of bad loans

TOKYO (AFP) — Japan's financial institutions unloaded 1,993 billion yen (\$20 billion) in bad debts in the six months to September, boosting disposals since March 1993 to 6,513 billion yen, a bank-owned agency said Wednesday.

The Cooperative Credit Purchasing Co., set by Japanese banks last year to clean up balance sheets, said it paid 835.5 billion yen for 1,610 non-performing loans, indicating an average discount of 58 per cent.

The agency said it also recovered 62.4 billion yen in the six months, of which 58.5 billion yen came from real estate held as collateral against 236 bad loans.

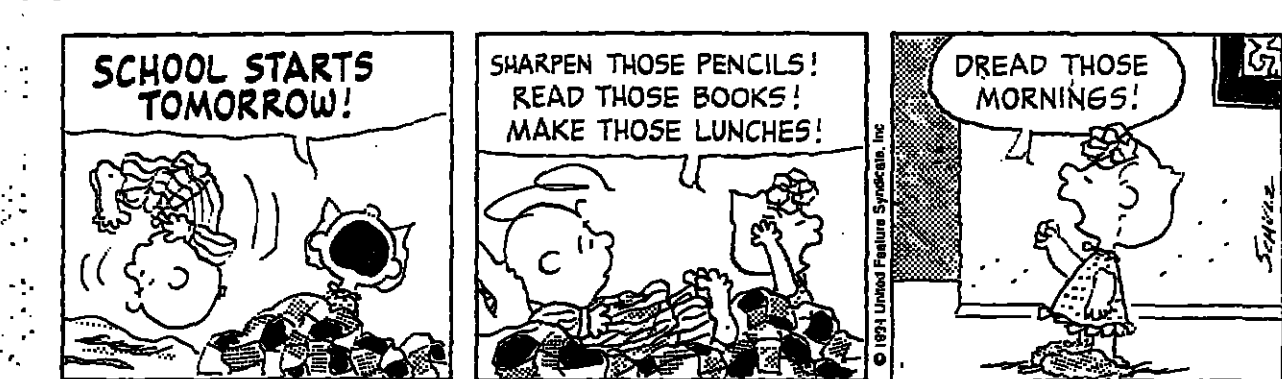
Flawless Performance

DAJANI'S Gold & Gems Jewellers.

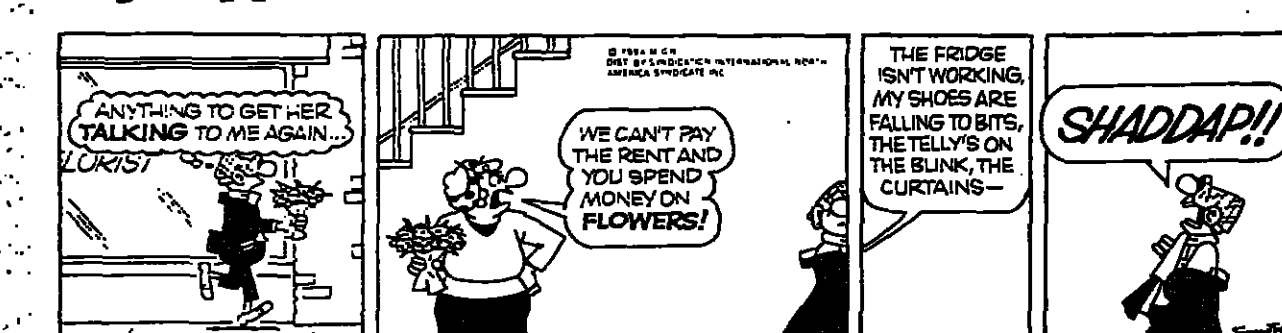
Amra Hotel, 6th Circle, Amman.

BLOODSTONE: For pain and sadness. It is good for ridding maladies without really confronting them.

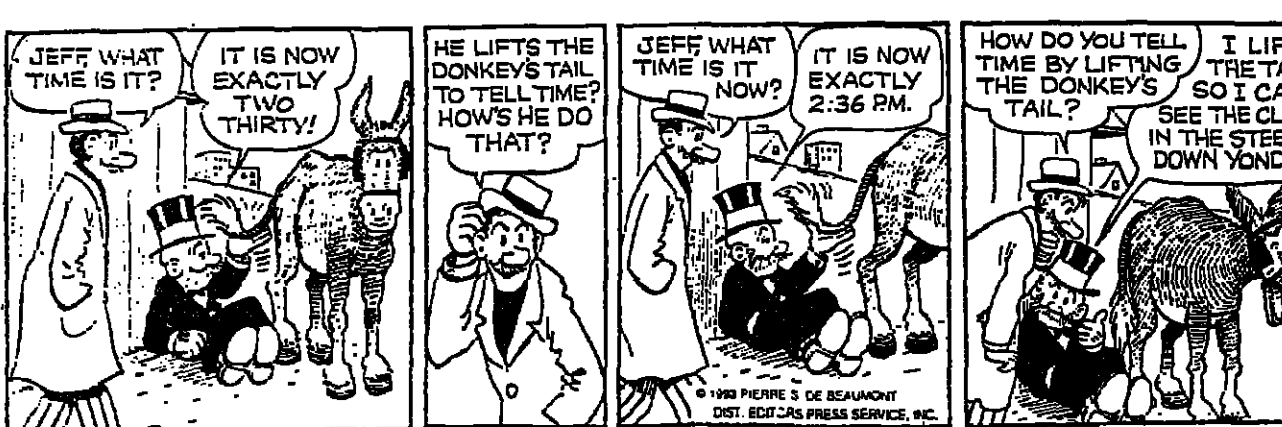
Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



THE BETTER HALF By Glasbergen



JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

CHAVO
DREEL
ERRTAY
BLUHME

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: _____

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: BROIL NOBLE AUTHOR LOTION
Answer: When the rich pilot's son arrived he was — HEIR-BORN

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY OCTOBER 25, 1994

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: You have talent that needs expression. Don't change plans today that you feel could jeopardize anything of a long term nature. Being with new friends in the evening is fine as the Moon trines Venus.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Find better ways for handling monetary and property matters. Try to please your mate in the evening. Be happy together and smile more often.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Talk over contracts with partners and compromise if necessary. Outside situations are good during the day, but not tonight.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Keep busily occupied at the tasks you have promised to do. Work on your favorite hobby in the evening and you will enjoy yourself very much.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Find out what your mate and good friends want you to do where amusements are concerned and you should have fun at any activities.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Find out what is expected of you by those who live with you under the same roof. Relax tonight with your loved ones. Tonights is good for entertaining close friends.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Go to the right sources for the data you need to complete an important project. In the evening, get into proven recreations which your loved ones will enjoy.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Apply yourself seriously to practical matters and you can get much accomplished. Don't commit yourself to anything critical tonight.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) This is a good day to see how you can better yourself and become happier with the ones you are very fond of. Get in touch with friends who can give you advice.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) If you concentrate on more of the worthwhile things of life and stop wasting time with gossip, you can get ahead faster in life.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) A good friend can give you advice on an important assignment. Avoid a group where heated discussions and gossip can be prevalent.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Handle your career affairs conscientiously. Avoid a bigwig who is fixed in your views. Take a little time to participate in recreations.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) New ideas should be put in motion so that you can get ahead much faster. Steer clear of newcomers who can delay your progress. Show loyalty to trusted friends.

Birthstone of October: Opal Tourmaline

THE Daily Crossword by Joan D. Berbrich

ACROSS

1 Touches gently

5 Land or sea end

10 Spoken room

13 Black, to poets

14 Actor Flynn

15 To

(transmogrify)

16 Ballerina's garb

17 French

18 Rib of a leaf

19 To fall on evil

20 Days

22 Scattered valley

23 Not at home

24 Egg den

27 Singer Mel

30 Plunges

31 LBJ's two names

35 United

36 Domesticated

37 WWII command

38 Early movie

39 Chinese

41 Mountain nymph

43 Paid the lily

44 Fragrances

45 Crucial

47 Group of poems

48 Out of favor

54 Swenson of "Benson"

55 Dame

56 "Dick"

58 Sharp

59 External

60 Netherlands

61 Lapse

62 Rescued

63 Author Richard Henry

DOWN

1 Dog, e.g.

2 Adorn

3 Dorothy's canine

4 Curl up close to

5 Sing like Bing

7 In (going nowhere)

8 Lustrous

9 Gen. Robt.

11 Daywood's

12 Abby's sister

15 Confessed

20 Cheeser in Madrid

21 Yarnies

24 Arizona

25 Kind of suit

28 Tie

29 Like

33 Lat. abbr.

34 Hood's guns

36 Excessive letters

38 Clan material

40 Move very slowly

41 Melville novel

42 Continued later

44 Circle

45 Coal digger

46 Ire

47 Heron

49 Plenty, to

50 Glim

51 Sgt. Snort's dog

52 Thirst

53 Israel's Abba

54 DDE

57 Singer Sumac

Valdano owns up to substitution gaffe

Euro Soccer

LONDON (R) — Argentine World Cup winners Ossie Ardiles and Jorge Valdano, who both now coach in Europe, experienced the bleaker side of soccer this weekend.

Ardiles, successful with Argentina in 1978, watched helplessly Saturday as his Tottenham side crashed 5-2 at Manchester City, a result which renews the pressure on him to keep his job. But at least Ardiles played within the rules.

Valdano, who scored a goal in the final when Argentina won the World Cup in 1986, saw his Real Madrid side draw 1-1 with Compostela in the Spanish League — but he committed a major gaffe which could cost him and his club dearly.

Valdano accepted full responsibility for a substitution gaffe that left his team playing with 10 men for the last eight minutes after he was forced to pull off the player he had just put on because he was a foreigner.

With 10 minutes to play Valdano sent on Slovakian Petr Dubovsky.

But Real already had three foreigners on the field — Denmark's Michael Laudrup, Chilean Ivan Zamorano and Argentine Fernando Redondo — the maximum allowed under Spanish rules. Two minutes after sending on Dubovsky, a red-faced Valdano ordered him back to the bench.

"I'm to blame for bringing Dubovsky on," the Argentine said. "I was so concerned



Parma's Faustino Asprilla (l) runs behind De Agostini of Reggiana during their Italian League match Sunday. Parma won the match 2-1 (AFP photo)

with adding a bit of vitality to the team that I forgot about the foreign player rule... it was a serious mistake."

Barcelona immediately went on the attack against their arch-rivals with president Josep Lluís Nunez demanding sanctions against Madrid.

"If Madrid have played four foreign players at the same time they should be docked two points. It's the coach's fault," said Nunez. Barcelona themselves were

involved in a controversial substitution when coach Johan Cruyff took off Bulgarian striker Hristo Stoichkov in the 1-0 win over Tenerife, much to the Bulgarian's displeasure.

"He's too eager to score his 100th goal for the club. In football when you strive too hard for something you don't achieve it."

While Ardiles, Valdano and Stoichkov were three foreigners having a miserable time, the long-awaited return

to form of another exile prompted French champions Paris St Germain to an unexpectedly inspired 4-0 away win in Nice only three days after their champions' league victory over Spartak in Moscow.

The Brazilian midfielder Rai, signed last year but mainly seen on the substitutes' bench after a series of dismal displays, scored twice and made another as the Parisians moved up to fourth, six points behind leaders

Nantes. "I've been feeling good since the start of the season," said Rai, who was dropped by Brazil during the World Cup finals though he started the tournament as captain.

"This time I've had some time to prepare which wasn't the case last season. It was just one match, one competition after another."

"Now I feel comfortable, both physically and mentally. I have the European Cup and the league to show my abili-

ties and I aim to demonstrate that I can still play."

There was also joy for Russian exile Vladimir Beschastnykh who hit a vital second-half equaliser as Werder Bremen clinched a 1-1 draw at Kaiserslautern Sunday to close the gap on German League leaders Borussia Dortmund.

Beschastnykh's 73rd-minute strike from close-range cancelled out Kaiserslautern's 60th-minute goal and allowed Bremen to walk away from one of the most intimidating grounds in the country knowing that they had narrowed the gap on Dortmund to one point.

Two foreigners enjoying mixed fortunes in Italy were Argentine Abel Balbo of Roma and Oscar Tabarez, Cagliari's Uruguayan coach. Roma were knocked off the top after drawing 1-1 with Cagliari in a controversial game in which Roma's equaliser came from Balbo in the third minute of injury time.

Cagliari's coach Oscar Tabarez was not overly impressed by the referee's timekeeping.

Meanwhile new league leaders Parma overcame a dreadful goalkeeping error from Luca Bucci to come from behind to defeat Reggiana 2-1.

Parma coach Nevio Scala said: "Bucci made a bad mistake, but we ought to criticise the players who set him up for the mistake with a bad back pass. However, mistakes help you to grow."

Sentiments no doubt, that Ardiles and Valdano were reflecting about on Monday.

Hard bargaining about to begin for extra World Cup places

NEW YORK (R) — The allocation of eight additional berths for the next World Soccer Cup finals is the top item on the agenda at FIFA's executive committee meeting which starts here Tuesday.

The World Cup, which saw this year's host United States reap profits of \$60 million, will be expanded from 24 to 32 teams for the finals in France in 1998 and regional confederations are campaigning aggressively for the extra places.

UEFA, Europe's ruling body, wants three of the additional eight berths to make a total of 16 European teams in the tournament — 15 qualifiers plus hosts France.

But their stand will be opposed by the African and Asian confederations. Both want two more places for their own teams and only two more for European sides.

The South American confederation is in favour of one more berth for each confederation — Europe, Africa, Asia, South American and CONCACAF — and wants the top three teams from the U.S. World Cup — Brazil,

Italy and Sweden — to qualify automatically.

Other matters to be addressed during the three-day meetings include plans for the 1996 Atlanta Olympic soccer tournament, status of the start-up U.S. professional league and analysis of the past World Cup, which was marred by the banishment of superstar Maradona for testing positive for banned stimulants.

The profits made from the World Cup this summer have been warmly welcomed by FIFA, and chief organizer Alan Rothenburg, who had declined a salary and said he would accept compensation only if a surplus was generated, had his patience rewarded to the tune of \$3 million.

Rothenburg, however, is finding less success in his efforts as U.S. Soccer Federation president to kick-start a U.S. professional league — one of the conditions FIFA imposed when it awarded the 1994 World Cup to the United States back in 1988.

Only seven of 12 teams have been announced and at least one of them is already in

financial trouble. The lack of major sponsorship money is raising questions about whether major league soccer will get off the ground as scheduled next April.

FIFA officials were expected to report on inspections made of facilities that may be used for the 16-team Atlanta Olympic tournament including legion field in Birmingham, Alabama, Sanford Stadium in Athens, Georgia, the Orange Bowl in Miami, RFK Stadium in Washington, D.C., and the Citrus Bowl in Orlando.

Official announcements will come at a news briefing following the FIFA executive committee meeting Thursday, which will also feature presentations of the FIFA fair play trophy and the most entertaining team award to Brazil for their conduct and style in winning the 1994 World Cup.

FIFA President Joao Havelange is also receiving an award Thursday. He will be honoured by the Brazilian American Chamber of Commerce as its "person of the year."



Ayrtton Senna

Suspension arm crushed Senna's skull

BOLOGNA, Italy (AFP) — Ayrtton Senna was killed when a piece of front wheel suspension went through his helmet when he crashed in the San Marino Grand Prix in May, legal sources said here Monday.

An autopsy report has apparently confirmed the cause of death but findings

into the cause of the accident were incomplete.

Examining magistrate Maurizio Passarini would not comment on reports of a failure in the Williams steering column causing the Brazilian champion to lose control and crash at 280 kmh (174 mph).

Passarini was waiting for a final report from the accident

investigators who have also examined film from the on-board camera and the computer read-out of how the car was performing when it crashed.

He was expected to publish his findings next month when he will also say if legal proceedings will be brought against anyone.

Egypt's Zamalek are on course for rare double

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Egyptian champions Zamalek kept on course for a rare defence of the African Champions Cup with a 2-0 win over Nkana FC of Zambia on the weekend.

The match was one of five semifinals, first leg ties played in Africa's three club competitions.

Zamalek is seeking to become only the second club, after Zaire's TP Mazembe in the 1960s, to successfully defend the champions cup trophy.

Their two-goal win puts them just one match away from a place in the final against either Esperance of Tunisia or Algeria's Mouloudia Oran, whose semifinals first leg tie was postponed for a week.

The Egyptians, reinforced by the recent signing of Ghanaian international Oscar Laud and George Arthur, are

fancied to hang on to their lead in the return match in Zambia Nov. 6.

While Zamalek will be seeking to enforce continuity, new names are making strong bids in both the African Cup Winners' Cup and the Confederation of African Football (CAF) Cup.

Zaire's daring club Motema Pembe beat Agaza Omnisport of Togo 3-1 in their cup winners' cup semifinal, first leg tie in Kinshasa Sunday to set up a handy lead for the return game in the tiny West African country.

This is the fourth successive year that DC Motema Pembe have played in the competition, but they have never gone further than the semifinals stage.

Kenya Breweries scored a vital away goal to force a 1-1 draw with Mbilinga of Gabon in the other cup winners' cup match Sunday.

Don't write off Milan, says Italian premier

ROME (R) — Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi said Monday he expects his ailing AC Milan soccer team to recapture its very best form soon.

"I expect Milan to continue to challenge for honours in Italy and Europe once it has got over this period of tiredness and bad luck," club owner Berlusconi said in his weekly radio interview with state broadcaster Rai.

The interview usually focuses on political issues but on this occasion Berlusconi also had words of comfort for the European and Italian champions, currently struggling in midtable at home and bottom of their group in Europe's Champions' League.

"Milan have been through a series of extraordinary seasons and many of its players are still getting over the World Cup," added Berlusconi, who said coach Fabio Capello and his staff had his full support.

Milan face a crucial week with UEFA to rule Wednesday on their appeal against two points deducted in the Champions' League for a bottle-throwing incident.

Milan seek to overturn a 2-1 first leg deficit against local rivals Inter in an Italian Cup tie Wednesday night and then meet Juventus in a crucial league match next Sunday.

Brazilian soccer fan killed at Maracana

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) — A soccer fan was in a critical condition after being shot outside the Maracana Stadium following a Brazilian championship match, a hospital spokesman said Sunday.

Witnesses said 22-year-old Wagner Soares da Silva, a fan of the Sao Paulo club Palmeiras, was shot by the occupants of a car outside the famous Rio de Janeiro Stadium following Palmeiras' away game with Flamengo Saturday.

Witnesses said Palmeiras fans were waiting to return to Sao Paulo in a convoy of buses when the vehicles were stoned by a group of Flamengo supporters.

The Palmeiras fans left the buses to retaliate when the car drove past with the occupants firing gunshots. Two other Palmeiras fans were injured but later discharged from hospital, a spokesman said.

During the game, Palmeiras fans had hurled objects at Flamengo fans. No arrests were reported.

The situation is calm now. The coaches and train carrying the Bari fans have left town. It's no worse than we have on a lot of Sundays," the police spokesman said.

Soccer hooliganism is a growing problem in Italy with clashes between rival bands of "ultras" (diehard fans) reported to be recruiting among Italy's young soccer fans.

Rival fans hurled missiles at each other in the San Paolo Stadium while scuffles broke out around a Neapolitan station as Bari fans returned to board a "soccer special" train home after the match which

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

Denver Broncos conquer San Diego Chargers 20-15

The Associated Press

SAN DIEGO's charge to perfection began with an unlikely victory over the Denver Broncos. It ended Sunday with an equally unexpected loss to the Broncos.

The NFL's last unbeaten team fell 20-15 at home as John Elway was 22-for-31 for 241 yards and one touchdown and Jason Elam had two field goals in the final 10:02. The Chargers staged an impressive comeback to win at Denver 37-34 in the season opener.

Dallas survived losing Troy Aikman in the first quarter to a concussion in a 28-21 victory at Arizona. Rodney Peete threw two touchdown passes to Michael Irvin and Emmitt Smith rushed for 76 yards and a score as the Cowboys won their 11th straight NFC East game.

"You don't want to lose your general, but we lost him and still came out on top," Irvin said. Elsewhere in the NFL, the floodgates opened all over the place. And out sprang Marshall Faulk, Barry Sanders and Eric Metcalf. So did Tyrone Hughes, Mel Gray and, in one of the most unusual plays in memory, Robert Bailey.

Big plays dominated the football landscape. Hughes had two of them on kickoff returns of 98 and 92 yards for touchdowns as the New Orleans Saints outlasted the Los Angeles Rams 37-34. The Rams also posted long-distance scores on a 98-yard fumble puntback by Toby Wright and a strange 103-yard punt return from Bailey.

"No one touched the ball and it was still a live ball," Bailey said. "Those type of plays happen when another team is up, we're down; they kind of get lazy and get lax." Metcalf broke his second punt return TD of the year — after misplaying the ball and having it bounce over his head — in helping Cleveland past Cincinnati 37-13.

"All I could think of was going back to the sideline and Bill (Belichick, the coach) saying I had lost us 20 yards," Metcalf said. "Then I got a lucky bounce, and when I got by their closest guy, our guys still had the wall set up." Gray went 102 yards for a touchdown with a kickoff, while league-rushing leader Sanders had an 84-yard jaunt as Detroit took Chicago 21-16.

Faulk's 85-yard reception for a score came in a losing cause as Washington, helped by Andre Collins' 21-yard interception return for a touchdown, beat Indianapolis 41-27.

Also, it was San Francisco 41, Tampa Bay 16; the Los Angeles Raiders 30, Atlanta 17; Kansas City 38, Seattle 23, and Pittsburgh 10, the New York Giants 6.

Idle this week are Miami, Buffalo, New England and the New York Jets.

Broncos 20, Chargers 15

At San Diego, Denver's defence, lowest rated in the league, intercepted three passes and kept the NFL's top-scoring offence without a touchdown for the first time this season.

While the Chargers (6-1) fell into a tie with Cleveland and Dallas for the league's best record, Denver (2-5) finally did something right at the end of a game. The Broncos forced backup quarterback Gale Gilbert to throw four straight incomplete passes moments after he replaced Stan Humphries (bruised and sprained ankle).

San Diego's Natrone Means had his third straight 100-yard game, rushing 19 times for 100 yards. Cowboys 28, Cardinals 21

The visiting Cowboys (6-1) won their ninth in a row against the Cardinals (2-5), even though Aikman left after his team's first series ended with his 15-yard scoring pass to Alvin Harper. Aikman also was cut on his chin and tongue when hit by Michael Bankston and Wilber Marshall.

Steve Beuerlein passed 9 yards to Ricky Proehl for a 21-14 Arizona lead on the first play of the fourth quarter. But Irvin answered immediately, grabbing a 15-yard pass at midfield and eluding James Williams to race the remaining 50 yards.

Saints 37, Rams 34

The Rams' Chuck Knox, a pro coach for three decades, best summed up the craziness at the superdome.

"Four plays for 90 yards," he said. "I don't know if I've been in a game like that and I've been in a lot of them."

What could match Hughes' combined punt and kickoff runbacks of 347 yards, breaking the NFL mark of 294 yards? Or his kickoff returns of 304 yards that also broke the old mark?

Maybe Wright's 98-yard run with Lorenzo Neal's fumble. Or, more likely, Harris' shocking punt return.

With the Saints leading 37-27 and 4:08 left, Tommy Barnhardt punted 39 yards into the end zone. The ball bounced close to the back line, then rolled forward without being touched. Bailey scooped it up and ran down the field, through both special teams and players from the offence and defence trotting onto the field.

"When I looked back everybody was walking off the field," he said. "The ball was still rolling. I knew it was still alive. I just picked it up and started running."

Browns 37, Bengals 13

Special teams played a big role for the host Browns (6-1), off to their best start since 1963. Metcalf returned Lee Johnson's punt 73 yards for a touchdown less than two minutes after Travis Hill recovered a blocked punt in the end zone, completing a 17-point Cleveland third quarter that turned the game around.

Both teams finished with backup quarterbacks. Vinny Testaverde left the game complaining of headaches and blurred vision early in the third quarter, replaced by Mark Rypien.

The Bengals' David Klingler sprained his knee and Don Hollas injured his shoulder. That left only third-stringer Jeff Blake.

Cincinnati (0-7), the league's only winless team, lost for the consecutive time on the road.

Lions 21, Bears 16

Gray returned a kickoff 102 yards for a touchdown. Sanders rushed for 167 yards (84 on one rush) and Detroit's defence forced four turnovers as the Lions (3-4) ended a three-game losing streak. Gray's runback was the longest of his career and the longest for the Lions in 23 years.

The visiting Bears (4-3), last in the NFL against the rush, saw their three-game winning streak ended.

49ers 41, Buccaneers 16

At San Francisco, the Niners (6-2) got their ninth successive win against Tampa Bay (2-5) as Steve Young threw for a score.

Raiders 30, Falcons 17

The Falcons (4-3) couldn't get their run-and-shoot untracked at Los Angeles, while the Raiders (3-4) found a running game. Harvey Williams rushed for 107 yards, the first Raider to rush for more than 100 yards since Eric Dickerson in 1992.

Tim Brown grabbed two TD tosses from Jeff Hostetler, and had eight catches for 130 yards.

Chiefs 38, Seahawks 23

At Kansas City, Marcus Allen sparked the Chiefs (5-2) with a 36-yard run, his longest in nine years. With the Chiefs ahead 13-7, Allen went for his 117th career touchdown, passing John Riggins for fourth on the career list.

Joe Montana threw for 270 yards and two scores and Lin Elliott added three field goals for the Chiefs. Seattle's Chris Warren rushed for 117 yards.

Kansas City has beaten Seattle (3-4) seven straight times, while the Seahawks have lost six in a row following bye weeks.

Redskins 41, Colts 27

At Indianapolis, Gus Frerotte's first NFL start was a success as the Redskins (2-6) snapped a five-game slide.

Frerotte, the 197th player taken in this year's draft and starting in place of injured first-round pick Heath Shuler, passed for 226 yards and two touchdowns.

Jordan Times Tel: 667171

Major, Reynolds report progress

CHEQUERS (AFP) — British and Irish prime ministers John Major and Albert Reynolds said they made "solid progress" Monday in landmark talks but admitted differences remained in the difficult peace process in Northern Ireland.

The two leaders said they had advanced work on a framework document for inter-party negotiations on the future of blooded province but declined to set any clear time-table for presenting the key document, designed to set the basis for the constitutional talks to come.

They said more work still needed to be done on the handing over of weapons by paramilitary groups which they emphasised was essential for lasting peace.

The Irish Republican Army (IRA) announced a ceasefire in Northern Ireland at the end of August, matched by ceasefires by the leading Protestant paramilitary groups earlier this month.

But both groups have refused so far to turn their weapons stockpiles over to the authorities either side of the Northern Ireland border.

Speaking after three hours of talks Monday, Mr. Major admitted there were still "important issues that remain to be resolved" between London and Dublin.

But he told reporters: "No one is dragging their feet and we are both confident of reaching an agreement."

He added: "We have to produce a document acceptable for all the people of Northern Ireland... We'll take our time to get it right."

Mr. Reynolds also spoke of "solid progress."

But he said that the drawing up of the framework document was "a challenge" for the two governments. Monday's meeting had established "a political direction," he said.

On the question of the document, neither leader was willing to discuss the remaining sticking points, but Mr. Reynolds said: "The gap is narrower than it was before the talks."

That cooperation was now "an ingrained habit," said Mr. Major.

Captain of seized ship admits he loaded Iraqi oil

KUWAIT (R) — An oil tanker captain whose vessel was intercepted in the Gulf on suspicion of violating U.N. sanctions admitted on Monday he had loaded diesel fuel in Iraq for export in violation of the embargo.

Izzat Abdul Hadi Khalifa, master of the Al Mahrousa, told a news conference he had loaded 3,162 tonnes of diesel oil in the Iraqi port of Zubayr between Oct. 16 and 19 and then sailed south, away from Iraq, into international waters.

Asked if he knew that he had broken the embargo, Mr. Izzat, an Egyptian, replied in English: "I knew all that, but what could I do at that time. All the people (the crew) knew."

But he insisted that when he left Dubai on Oct. 11 at the beginning of the voyage he did not know he would be ordered to go to Iraq.

He said he was told by his charterer that he would be heading to the Iranian port of Abadan.

But when he anchored in international waters in the northern Gulf between 1600 and 1800 local time on Friday, Oct. 14, he received new instructions from an Iraqi agent of his charterer.

He said the agent, whom he named as Nassar Yacoub, came to his vessel in a tug and came on board to deliver the orders.

Some crew members told Reuters that the location where they had anchored in the Gulf indicated to them that a prior intention existed to go to Iraq.

A U.S. warship, part of a four-year-old ship monitoring operation, stopped the Honduran-flagged tanker in international waters in the northern Gulf on Saturday.

U.S. Navy and coast-guard personnel boarded it to check whether it was violating the U.N. oil embargo imposed on Iraq over its 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

The U.S. navy transferred the vessel into the custody of the Kuwaiti navy and coast guard on Saturday. The Kuwaitis escorted the vessel to Shuaiba port south of Kuwait City on Sunday for further investigation.

At the news conference

held aboard the vessel, Mr. Izzat, reading in broken English from papers he described as his records, said: "Berthing 0030 (hours local time) 16 October, at Khawr Zubayr, that belongs to Iraq. Leaving berthing, 2100 19 October, warships stop me, take (gave) me the order to stop, 0650 21 October."

"My instruction from the charter, after loading, was to go to (Siri) Island off Dubai and to wait for new instructions (as to) where I should discharge this cargo," he said.

The Russian-built Al Mahrousa, which displaces about 7,500 tonnes when fully loaded, has an Egyptian and Pakistani crew.

The Kuwaiti government is expected to work with the U.N. Sanctions Committee to decide what to do with the vessel.

The boarding was the second in 10 days and occurred amid heightened tension in the Gulf region as a result of Iraq massing troops near the Kuwaiti border early in October.

According to a U.S. Navy spokesman, the ship had maps only for the Khawr Abdullah waterway leading into Iraq. It also had no documentation, no bill of lading and no manifest.

The U.S. vessel that intercepted the Al Mahrousa was part of the U.N. maritime intercept operation that monitors ships coming from or bound to Iraq in the Gulf.

On Oct. 13, the U.S. navy boarded the 29,687-tonne Greek-owned, Liberian-flagged tanker Katerina P, saying it had oil believed to have come from Iraq.

The Katerina P anchored late on Sunday off Fujairah, with a U.S. Navy tug nearby, a shipping source said, adding that he thought the Fujairah authorities would sell its cargo of diesel.

"They (the U.S. authorities) know the ship's been in Iraq," he said of the Katerina P. "I understand they take (satellite) pictures of them in Iraq and then capture them when they come out (into the Gulf)."

The Council of Ministers on Monday approved the loan agreement.

Prince Hassan, Rifkind review peace process, Jordan's defence needs

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan received at the Royal Court Monday British Defence Secretary Malcolm Rifkind and reviewed with him Jordan's defence requirements as well as British-Jordanian relations.

The Crown Prince also discussed Jordan's future role in the region, stressing that the Kingdom would be in need to enhance its defence capabilities.

Mr. Rifkind lauded His Majesty King Hussein's efforts towards achieving a comprehensive Middle East peace.

Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Abdul Hafez Kaabneh were present.

Following the meeting, Mr. Rifkind said in an interview with Jordan Television: "I am delighted to be in Amman at this historic time. I have just had the privilege



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on Monday receives British Defence Secretary Malcolm Rifkind (Petra photo)

of meeting with His Royal Highness the Crown Prince and it was a good opportunity to have an exchange of views as these are very historic days

for Jordan and for the whole region. "What King Hussein has achieved shows a great wisdom and offers very good

prospects for the future for Jordan and for the region as a whole," he said. Mr. Rifkind left for Kuwait later Monday.

Germany to grant JD 20.5m loan to Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — Germany will grant Jordan DM 45 million (around JD 20.5 million) in soft loans this year to help finance development projects, a press release from the German Embassy said Monday.

The decision followed the annual negotiations between the two sides conducted in Bonn in the past week by Minister of Planning Hisham Al Khatib and German government officials, said the statement.

Of the loan amount, DM 32 million (around JD 15.5 million) will be used to finance water projects and the rest will fund projects related to promoting agriculture, improving the environment and helping the private sector.

The statement said a date for the official signing of the loan will be announced later.

The Council of Ministers on Monday approved the loan agreement.

Students stage anti- and pro-peace demonstrations

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — In the first public protest against the peace treaty that Jordan will sign with Israel on Wednesday, around 500 students staged a demonstration at the University of Jordan yesterday.

But the demonstration was quickly countered by a group of over 50 pro-peace students. Both events ended soon afterwards without violence.

In the anti-peace rally, which was arranged by the Islamist-dominated students council, activists gave speeches warning against giving up Arab rights in Palestine. Banners rejecting the treaty were hung on the "clock tower" which the council had renamed the "martyrs' tower."

The demonstrators burnt American and Israeli flags before the peace supporters managed to bring down one of the Islamists' banners which declared that "the Jordanian people say no to peace" and burnt it.

No violence occurred between the two groups and the two rallies ended peacefully in less than an hour and life appeared to have returned to normal on the university campus.

As the peace opponents shouted slogans against peace and "compromising our lands," the peace supporters chanted slogans in support of the peace treaty and His Majesty King Hussein.

The students council at the

university, which has over 20,000 students, had posted signs on various university buildings declaring that the Jordanian people are opposed to peace and urging rejection of the peace treaty. Only the signs at the Islamic Sharia Faculty remained after the demonstrations ended.

One sign that was posted at the Sharia faculty read: "The mountains of Jordan refuse to have a Zionist who is full of hatred or a traitor who has surrendered to step on this land."

Inside that faculty, another banner read: "The Jews won through peace what they could not achieve in war."

Students entering the faculty had to step on an Israeli flag that lay on the ground.

Opposition parties have claimed that the majority of Jordanians reject peace but they have not yet provided any evidence to their claim.

On July 25, when the Washington Declaration was signed, about 300 political activists gathered in front of the Hussein Mosque in downtown Amman and declared it a day of public mourning. Their call seemed to have generated little support though as there were no signs of mourning in Amman that day with life proceeding normally.

The opposition says the authorities have limited its ability to demonstrate against the peace process through banning them from holding public rallies.

Kohl opens coalition bargaining

BONN (AP) — Chancellor Helmut Kohl, his narrow majority in parliament facing a legal challenge, began negotiations Monday with coalition partners over the guidelines for four more years in power.

Mr. Kohl's Christian Democrats and his allies, the Christian Social Union and the Free Democrats, together control 341 seats in the 672-seat parliament, four more than the absolute majority.

Divisions in the Free Democratic Party have created doubts about whether Mr. Kohl will get the 337 votes he needs to win reelection on the first vote in parliament. The vote is expected to occur Nov. 17.

If he fails to get the 337 votes in two votes, Mr. Kohl can be reelected with a simple majority of the legislators. But that would be a disastrous start for his new term and could be a harbinger for his government's collapse.

Slam as Mr. Kohl's majority is at 10 seats more than the three opposition parties together, it was challenged Monday by Hans Meyer, a Frankfurt constitutional lawyer. He believes Mr. Kohl should have only the two-seat majority prescribed by the proportion of the vote his coalition won in the Oct. 16 election.

Germany's quirky electoral law gave Mr. Kohl's party 12 seats over the proportion of the vote they won, while awarding an extra four seats to the Social Democrats, the biggest opposition party.

Mr. Meyer lodged his complaint in parliament and threatened to take it to Germany's supreme court if necessary. But he lacked a strong political sponsor. The Social Democrats aid they would not challenge the result, although they favoured changing the rule that allowed it to happen.

Mr. Kohl's prospects were lightened somewhat Monday when the Free Democrats gave a strong symbolic boost to their leader, Klaus Kinkel, Germany's foreign minister and a Kohl loyalist.

The Free Democrat leadership voted 52-0, with two abstentions, to approve a five-member negotiating team Mr. Kinkel had proposed for the coalition talks. Kinkel challenger Juergen Moellmann, who had asked to be on the team, was not included.

Mr. Moellmann claims the miserable Free Democrat performance in nine state elections over the past year cries out for leadership changes. He also wants the party to withhold its support for Mr. Kohl until the chancellor agrees to adopt important parts of the Free Democrat programme.

Mr. Kohl, Mr. Kinkel and other top leaders want the coalition negotiations to be quick, drawing general lines of policy and avoiding time-consuming debate.

Some of the clearest battles lines are being drawn within Mr. Kohl's party. Pro-business Christian Democrats want the new government to cut business taxes, create a lower minimum wage for service jobs, and force employees to seek private insurers to cover part of their pensions, similar to the U.S. system.

Philosopher brings Bosnia film to Sarajevo

SARAJEVO (AFP) — French philosopher Bernard Henry Levy has brought his film about the bloody siege of Sarajevo back to the Bosnian capital to be shown to its inhabitants. Bosnia, which was shot here last year and premiered at the Cannes Film Festival in May, tells the grey tale of everyday life in the city, to a soundtrack consisting largely of a monologue by Levy. The philosopher, who organised a preview screening at the weekend, said: "Of course the film will teach the inhabitants of the city nothing, since I made it for them and with them. But I think the people who saw it on Saturday evening were very moved," he said.

Thai TV shows mysterious fire balls from Mekong

BANGKOK (AFP) — Fire balls shot up into the air from a river bordering Thailand and Laos in what Thai Television said Sunday was a mysterious phenomenon at the end of the Buddhist Lent. Channel 7 evening news showed a series of pinkish balls of flame rising above the surface of the Mekong River as high as 30 metres and vanishing into the night sky of Nongkhai province, 615 kilometres northeast of here, last Wednesday. The night marked the end of the three-month-long Buddhist Lent, which falls on the 15th day of the 11th lunar month, when thousands of people from Nongkhai and nearby provinces converged to see the "Lai Rua Fai" or Illuminated Boat Display Festival — and the "natural phenomenon." Thai TV said. The apparition, which occurs every year at the same time, was also sighted by villagers along the river as far as 40 kilometres away, Channel 7 said. Many villagers reportedly saw as many as 50 fire balls on the night. Thai scientists have made efforts to explain the phenomenon but failed to establish its true cause, the report said.

Wife: Maxwell beat children, belittled her

LONDON (R) — Robert Maxwell, the British publishing tycoon whose body was found floating off his yacht three years ago, was a monstrous man with megalomaniac tendencies, says his widow Betty Maxwell, whose debt-laden empire crumbled after his death amid allegations he had plundered his companies' pension funds, used to beat his sons during their school days and meddled later in their personal lives, according to a preview in the Sunday Times of Betty Maxwell's biography. "Betty claims that throughout their 46-year marriage Maxwell belittled her: He had affairs, treated her like a servant in private, criticised her in public, poured scorn on her ability and spend long periods apart from her," the Sunday Times said. The newspaper, which intends to print fuller extracts next week, said the memoirs were being published after Britain's attorney-general rejected an appeal by opposition members of parliament to ban the book until after the trial of Maxwell's sons, Kevin and Ian. The MPs argued that the book might elicit sympathy for Kevin and Ian, who face fraud charges linked to the collapse of their father's businesses. "Bob was totally inflexible with school reports and scholastic results," Betty Maxwell writes. "The mere word 'careless' was enough to send him into a terrible rage, which invariably led to the culprit being caned." But the book also documents a grand passion. Betty Maxwell bore him nine children and remained loyal to him during his darkest days, when government inspectors found that he was "unfit" to run a public company. In June 1990, after a fierce argument, Maxwell demanded an immediate separation. "There was no announcement or agreement, but they rarely saw each other in the following months, before Maxwell's body was found floating off the Canary Islands on Nov. 5, 1991," the Sunday Times said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Rocketing kills 35 in Kabul

KABUL (R) — Thirty-five people were killed and 98 wounded in a fresh barrage of rockets on the Afghan capital, Kabul, on Monday, hospital sources said. Officials of President Burhanuddin Rabbani's administration blamed the rocketing on factions opposing the president. Twenty people were killed in a bus and taxi when two rockets hit Kabul's Kolalia Pushta street, witnesses said. The rockets came from south and southwest of Kabul and hit all over the war-shattered city, they said. Hospital sources said a total of 35 people died in the attacks. Presidential jets bombed opposition positions in southwestern Kabul but there was no immediate information about casualties from there, official sources said. Monday's rocketing was the most devastating since 45 people were killed and 150 wounded in rocket attacks, shelling and bombing on Friday. Another 15 people were reported to have been killed and 43 wounded in opposition rocket attacks on Sunday.

Ex-Khiam prisoner appeals for help

SIDON (AFP) — Israel on Monday released a Lebanese prisoner from a jail it controls in South Lebanon and handed him over to the Red Cross for medical reasons, hospital officials said. Mustafa Hassan Ramadan, 85, who has been detained since 1989 is suffering from an acute lung infection which needs hospital treatment, a spokesman at the Hammoud Hospital in the southern Lebanese port of Sidon said. Mr. Ramadan told reporters that more than 80 per cent of prisoners held by Israeli troops and their proxy South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia at the Khiam prison in South Lebanon were ill. They are suffering from heart trouble, lung problems and nerves, he said, blaming this on a high level of humidity inside their cells, ill treatment and because they are only allowed in the open air once every 72 hours. Mr. Ramadan called on the international community to help ease the prisoners' conditions saying they needed medicine and urged the Red Cross to press Israel to allow more visits. A committee of supporters of the prisoners in Beirut says that around 300 Lebanese are jailed in Khiam, inside Israel's self-declared "security zone," and that the Red Cross is banned from visiting them.

Nearly half of Russians distrust Yeltsin

VIENNA (AFP) — Nearly one Russian in two does not trust President Boris Yeltsin while 11 per cent have "full confidence" in him, according to a new survey published Monday in the Austrian newspaper Die Presse. The poll, carried out by Moscow's GFK Institute, was taken of 2,000 Russians in June and July. GFK Moscow is a subsidiary of the Austrian Fessel GFK Institute. A total of 47 per cent said they "had doubts" about Mr. Yeltsin and some 45 per cent of those polled said there were "very few" honest Russian politicians. More than a third, 34 per cent, said "not one" of their country's political figures was honest. Only three per cent "believed entirely" in the honesty of their politicians, and 18 per cent were undecided. Sixty-three per cent said they wanted "a strong man" as leader "who is capable of making and carrying out decisions rapidly," while 36 per cent opposed this. Seventy-one per cent favoured a "directing force of experts", while 28 per cent disagreed.

Nelson Mandela in Saudi Arabia

RIYADH (Agencies) — South African President Nelson Mandela conferred late Sunday with Crown Prince Abdullah on developing bilateral ties, the official Saudi Press Agency reported Monday. It said Mr. Mandela arrived in Riyadh earlier Sunday, but did not specify whether he was on a stopover or would be meeting other Saudi leaders. Saudi Arabia and other conservative Gulf Arab states opened relations with South Africa after multi-racial elections last April and the collapse of apartheid. A South African official said President Nelson Mandela was on a private visit. The official said the president would be visiting the kingdom "for a couple of days."

Turkey frees German TV crew

ANKARA (AFP) — Four people working for the German television channel ARD were released late Sunday after being held for 36 hours while their possessions were searched for material critical of the Turkish regime, German diplomats said Monday. The four, correspondent Dieter Sinnhuber and his female assistant, both German, and two Turkish cameramen were detained at the northeastern town of Hopa near the border with Georgia. After their release the four set off by road for Ankara, the diplomat said, adding that Turkish police had returned all the cassettes and documents seized during a search of their hotel rooms.

Iran floods cause massive damage

NICOSIA (AP) — Flash floods in northern and southern Iran have inflicted tens of millions of dollars in damages, Tehran Radio reported Monday. The broadcast quoted Vahid Dastjerdi, head of Iran's Red Crescent relief agency, as saying damages were so far estimated at more than 50 billion rials (\$28.5 million). But he added that the figure was sure to mount since heavy rainfalls, which caused the floods, still continued. He said the level of the Caspian Sea in the north also continued to rise. Iran's state-run media have reported a mother and her child and a 12-year-old boy as the only casualties of the floods which have hit the northern and southern provinces.

Expelled imam had 'terrorist' links

METZ, France (AFP) — The imam of a mosque in eastern France deported to Morocco last week had "terrorist" links and helped fund arms supplies, according to his expulsion order released Monday. The document was issued after Abdelali Hamdoune, who was expelled on Friday, denied charges that he was a danger to public safety, saying he had always backed peaceful dialogue. Mr. Hamdoune specifically denied links with overseas Islamic groups, saying his expulsion was "an unfair decision based on accusations which have no foundation," saying they were aimed at "harming the Muslim community." The government expulsion order said Mr. Hamdoune, imam in the town of Woippy, had "continuing relations" with "terrorist" groups in France and abroad, and was involved in raising funds to buy arms.

FIS disowns killings, warns extremist factions

ALGIERS (Agencies) — Algeria's outlawed Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) on Monday warned it will fight radical armed fundamentalists who fail to obey its orders, a day after two Spanish nuns were killed by suspected extremists.

"We are ready to fight them, like the authorities are currently going," one of the top FIS leaders, Abdelkader Boukhankham, said in a statement published on Monday by the daily El Oumma, close to the Islamic movement.

Mr. Boukhankham was released from prison in February by the military-backed government, which last month also freed FIS chief Abassi Madani and his deputy Ali Belhadi, in a bid to promote a political solution to Algeria's guerrilla war.

"As soon as the FIS is rehabilitated, the armed groups will cease all their operations and obey the leaders of the FIS. If the contrary happens, which is unlikely, then we shall remove all their political credibility," he said.

Mr. Boukhankham also blamed President Liamine Zeroul's government for a recent escalation in the violence — which has claimed at least 10,000 lives since a state of emergency was declared in February 1992, according to officials.

Had the regime applied "all the agreements reached after we came out of prison, we would at least have come to a truce declaration to end the bloodshed," Mr. Boukhankham said.

FIS officials have said the authorities promised "total

freedom" for Mr. Madani and Mr. Belhadi, convicted in June 1992 of state security offences and jailed for 12 years, but the two were instead placed under house arrest.

The two nuns gunned down on Sunday in the Bab Al Oued working-class district of Algiers brought to eight the number of foreigners murdered in cold blood in October and to 68 the toll over the past 13 months.

Responsibility for most of the killings has been claimed by the hardline Armed Islamic Group (GIA), which rules out "talks, truce or reconciliation" with the regime and last year told all foreigners to leave or face death.

On several occasions, the FIS has disclaimed any part in the attacks on expatriates accused of collaborating with the regime, as part of a campaign in which Algerian teachers, doctors, civil servants, industry chiefs and intellectuals have been targeted.

Spain has joined France, from which Algeria won independence in 1962, in renewing calls on all of its nationals to leave the country unless their presence is indispensable. Officials said about 300 Spaniards are still in Algeria.

Another FIS leader has accused the authorities of waging a large-scale war against the population, describing the situation as tragic.

Sheikh Rabeh Kabir, the head of all FIS offices abroad, called on the Algerian authorities to stop the violence.